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REAL
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井上雄彦

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リアル

井上雄彦

Comic by INOUE Takehiko
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(HIKARU STUDIO)

5

REAL

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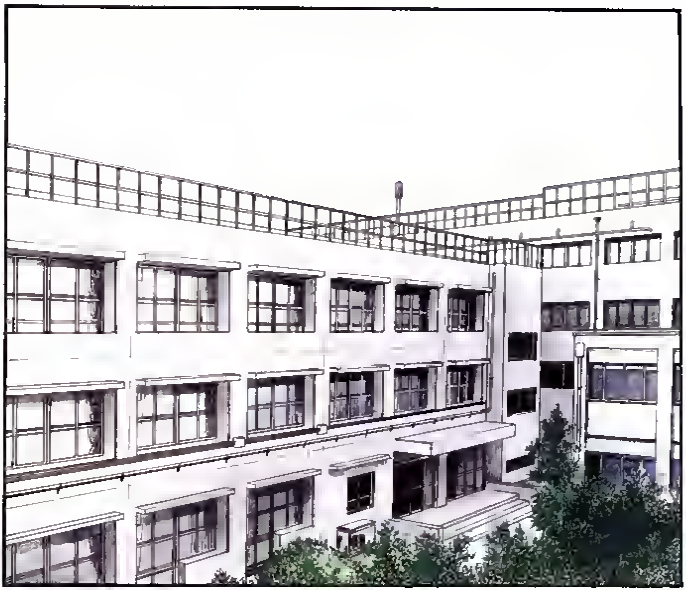
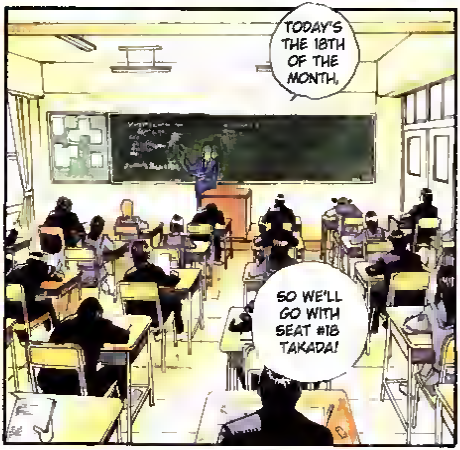
25th.



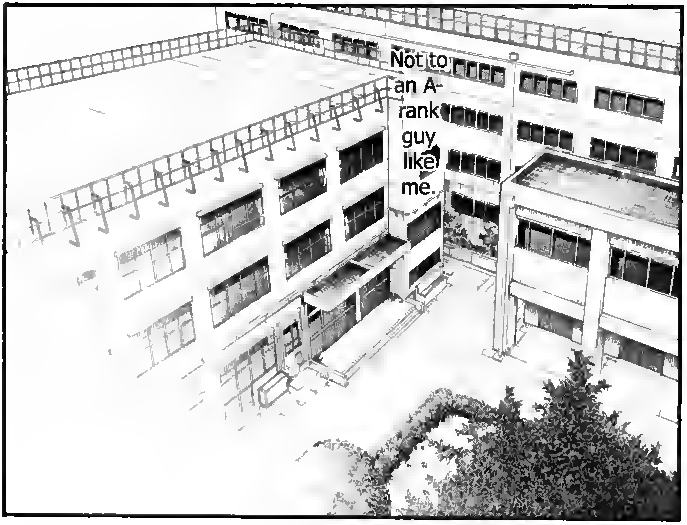

TODAY'S THE 18TH OF THE MONTH.
SO WE'LL GO WITH SEAT #18 TAKADA!

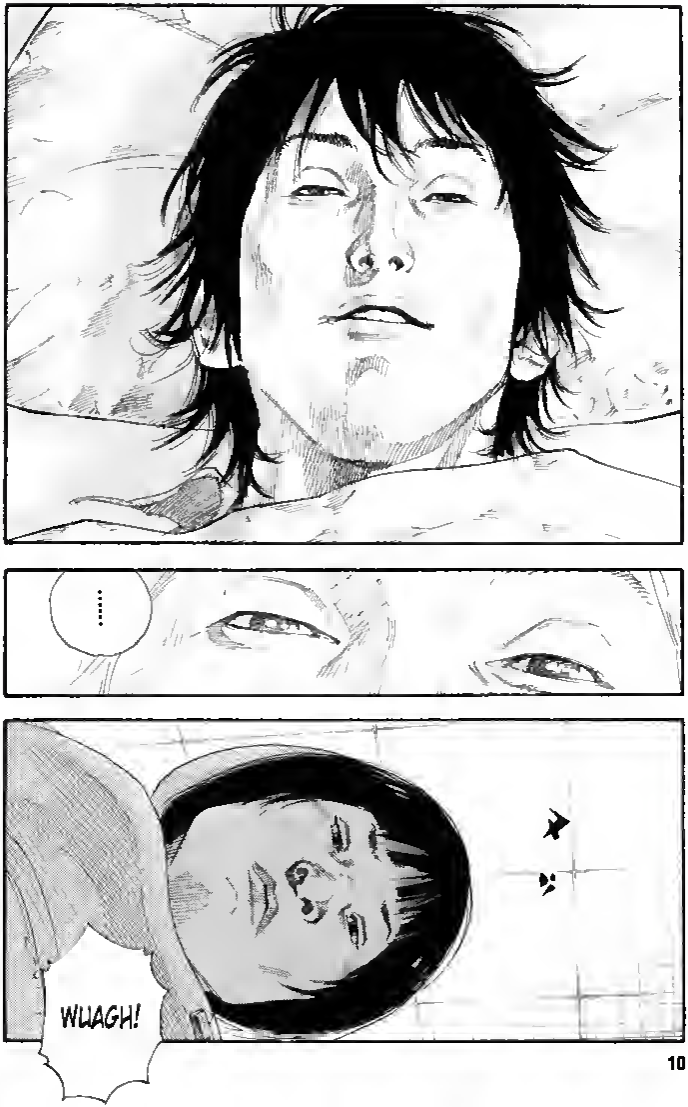
WHAT? NO WAY.
I'M SERIOUS.
SORRY, NOT FOR YOU.
THEN LET ME SEE IT SOMETIME
COME ON, WHY NOT?
ALL RIGHT, #19. TAKAHASHI!
OH CRAP.
.....
.....
GASP
.. YOU CAN'T DO IT, TAKADA?

TIK
TIK
CORRECT, WELL DONE.
WHOAAA.
CLAP CLAP CLAP
DAMN.
YES.
YES.

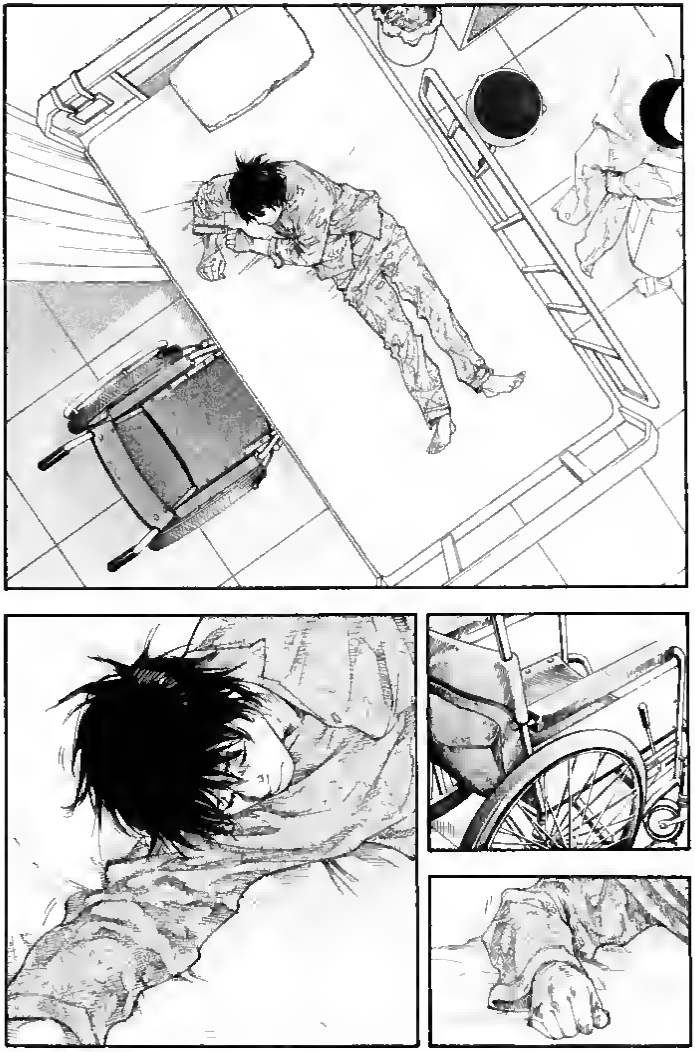
HOW'D YOU KNOW HOW TO DO THAT? YOU WEREN'T EVEN PAYING ATTENTION

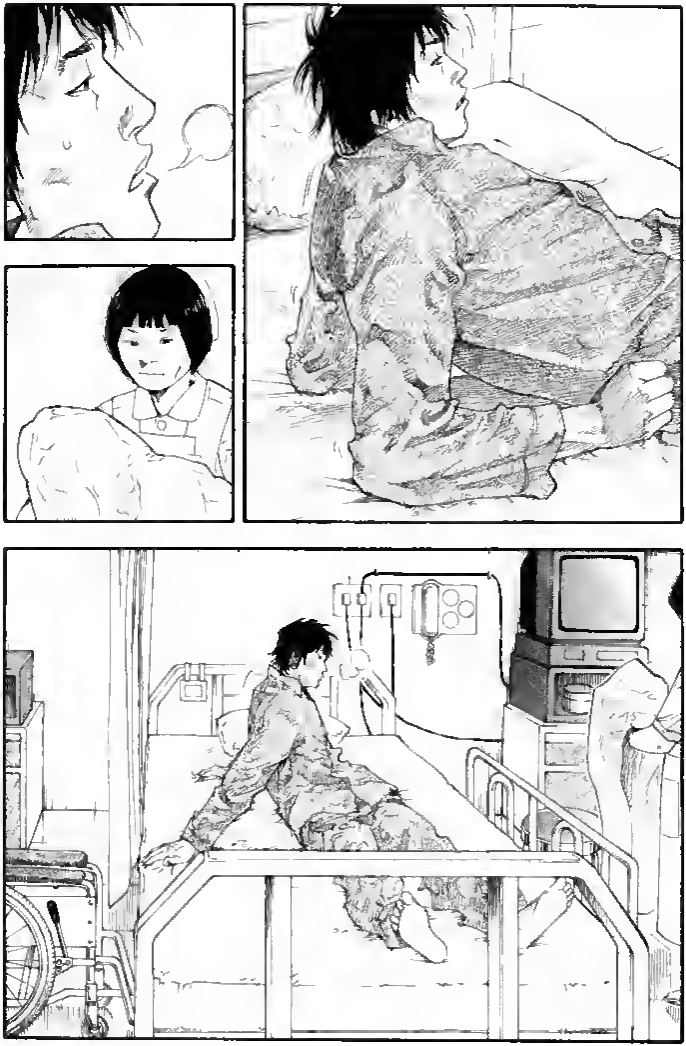
It's no big deal.


Not to an A-rank guy like me.

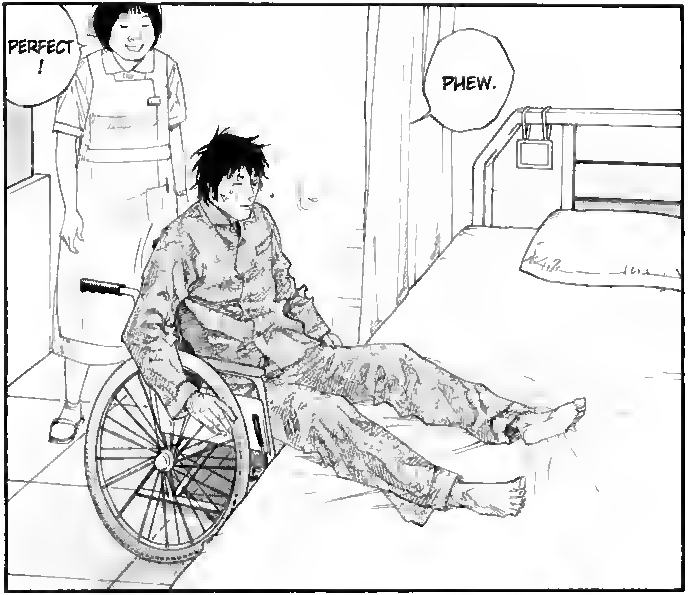

.....
WUAGH!

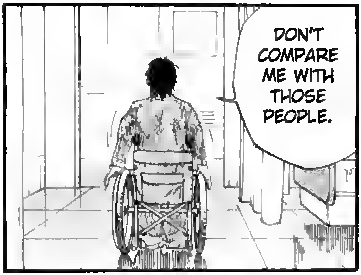
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN HAVING A VERY NICE DREAM, TAKAHASHI-KUN.
YOU WERE SMILING IN YOUR SLEEP.
.....
LET'S DO THIS.
READY TO GET UP?
IT'S TIME FOR REHAB.



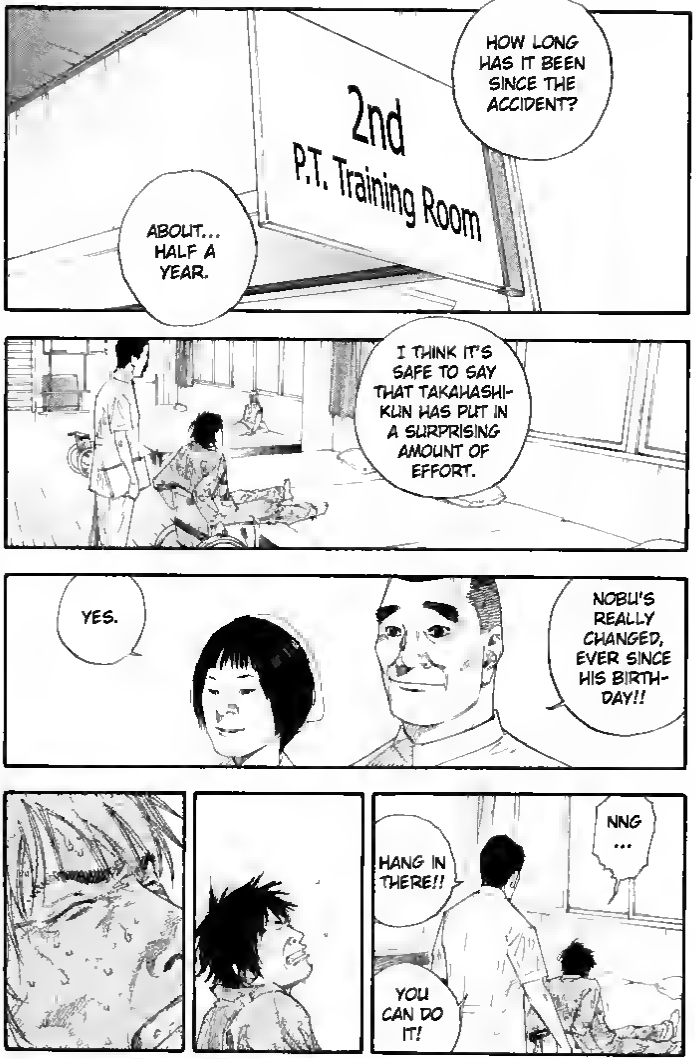


YOU CAN DO IT!
NNG.
FHH.


PERFECT!
PHEW.


DON'T COMPARE ME WITH THOSE PEOPLE.

NO WONDER YOU WERE CAPTAIN OF THE TEAM.
MOST PEOPLE TAKE MUCH LONGER TO GET THIS FAR.


2nd
P.T. Training Room
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE THE ACCIDENT?
ABOUT... HALF A YEAR.
I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT TAKAHASHI-KUN HAS PUT IN A SURPRISING AMOUNT OF EFFORT.
YES.
NOBU'S REALLY CHANGED, EVER SINCE HIS BIRTH-DAY!!
NNG ...
HANG IN THERE!!
YOU CAN DO IT!

SHUT UP.
YOU CAN'T DO IT!!
SHIT!!
THAT'S IT, NOBU-KUN!
AS LONG AS HE STICKS WITH IT, HIS REHABILITATION SHOULD BE OVERWHELM-INGLY FAST.
AH, TO BE YOUNG!
AND HE IS AN ATHLETE.
Don't ever look down on me again, you dropout!!
You see that, Nomiya?!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

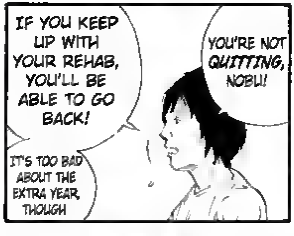
...
ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT RANKS
IN FACT, HE'S GETTING CHEEKY.
I THINK HE'S RECOVERING A LOT OF CONFIDENCE IN HIMSELF.
HUFF
HUFF
.....
I'm already #1 among all these suckers.
2nd
P.T. Training Room

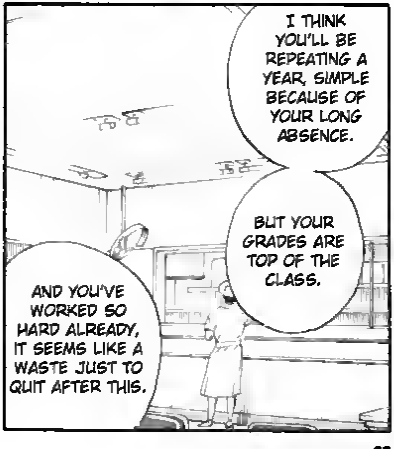
HUH?
NOBU
YOU'RE REALLY WORKING HARD, TAKAHASHI-KUN.
SHE'S COME TO VISIT SEVERAL TIMES, YOU KNOW.
I KNOW.
IT'S YOUR TEACHER, KITAHARA-SENSEI.
BE POLITE TO HER.
OH ...

YOU'RE LOOKING POSITIVE.
I'M RELIEVED
THE REHAB DOCTOR IS SURPRISED AT HOW FAST HIS PROGRESS IS.
REALLY! THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, TAKAHASHI-KUN.
MY TIMING WAS ALWAYS POOR, THAT'S ALL.
YOU'D BE SLEEPING, OR OUT IN REHAB.
I'M GLAD I SAW YOU TODAY, THOUGH.
I GOT TO SEE JUST HOW HARD YOU'RE WORKING, TAKAHASHI-KUN.

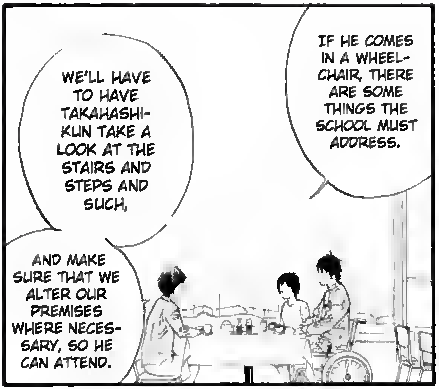
SO IT'S BEEN ABOUT SIX MONTHS SINCE IT HAPPENED.
DO YOU FEEL LIKE COMING BACK TO SCHOOL, TAKAHASHI-KUN?

SCHOOL.


IF YOU KEEP UP WITH YOUR REHAB, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GO BACK!
YOU'RE NOT *QUITTING*, NOBU!
IT'S TOO BAD ABOUT THE EXTRA YEAR, THOUGH

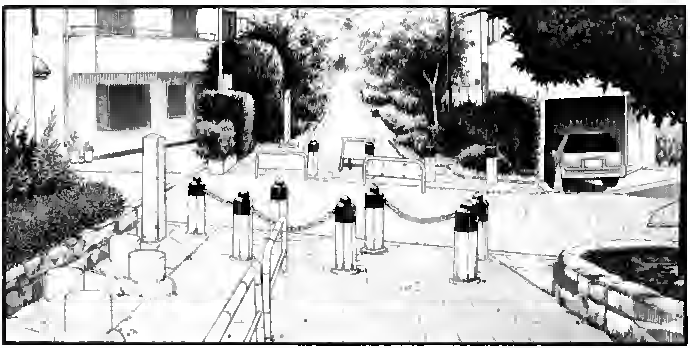

I THINK YOU'LL BE REPEATING A YEAR, SIMPLE BECAUSE OF YOUR LONG ABSENCE.
BUT YOUR GRADES ARE TOP OF THE CLASS.
AND YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD ALREADY, IT SEEMS LIKE A WASTE JUST TO QUIT AFTER THIS.

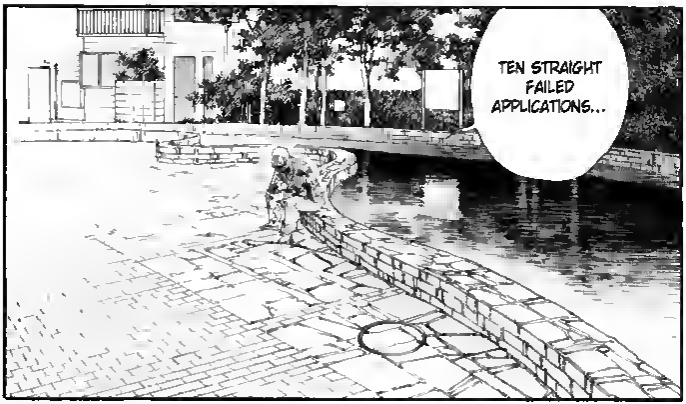
AND YOU'VE GOT COLLEGE AND WORK TO THINK ABOUT AFTER THAT.
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO BE A HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT, NOBU!
RIGHT ?


IF HE COMES IN A WHEEL-CHAIR, THERE ARE SOME THINGS THE SCHOOL MUST ADDRESS.
WE'LL HAVE TO HAVE TAKAHASHI-KUN TAKE A LOOK AT THE STAIRS AND STEPS AND SUCH,
AND MAKE SURE THAT WE ALTER OUR PREMISES WHERE NECES-SARY, SO HE CAN ATTEND.

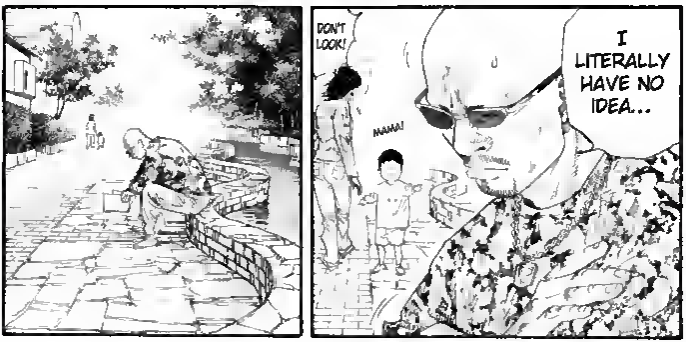
UMM...

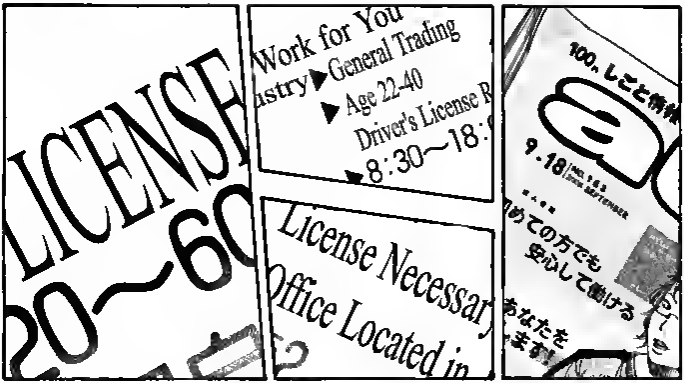
SEE IF YOU CAN GET PERMISSION TO LEAVE ON A SUNDAY,
AND COME TO SCHOOL, TAKAHASHI-KUN.




TEN STRAIGHT FAILED APPLICATIONS...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
WHY...?
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM ?!

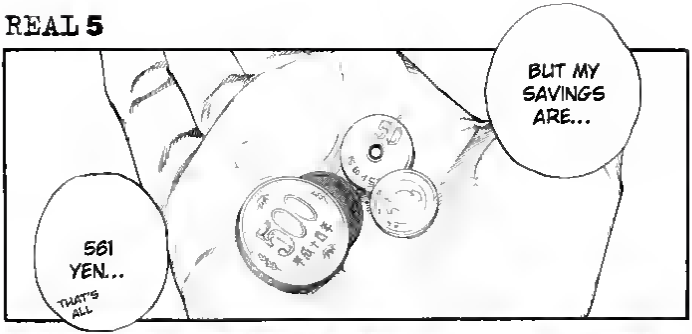

DON'T LOOK!
MAMA!
I LITERALLY HAVE NO IDEA...

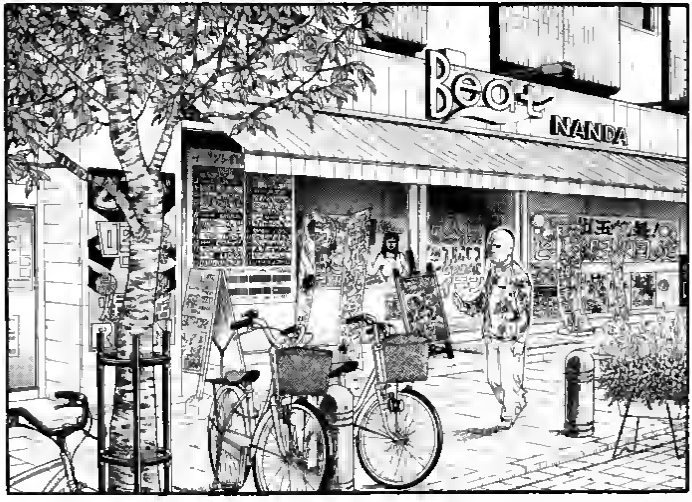

LICENSE
20~60
Work for You
▶General Trading
▶Age 22-40
Driver's License R
8:30—18:
License Necessary
Office Located in
100、しごと情報
9.18
初めての方でも
安心して働ける
あなたを
ます!

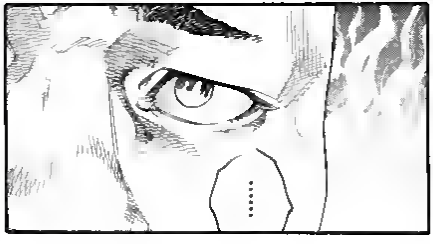
GOTTA BE IT
IT'S THE LICENSE ...!!

I MUST GET MY FREAKIN' DRIVER'S LICENSE ALREADY!
IN ORDER FOR ME TO PROCEED WITH MY LIFE,
I'M BACK TO THE BEGIN-NING...
A HURDLE I MUST OVER-COME.

!!
AAR GH!
ALL THOSE PEOPLE FROM THE DRIVING SCHOOL HAVE MOVED FORWARD, LEAVING ME BEHIND...
GOOD THING I'VE STILL GOT A MONTH.
ALL THAT TIME YOU SPENT IS WASTED.
IF YOU DON'T GET IT WITHIN 9 MONTHS,
I CAN'T BE *THAT* STUPID.


BUT MY SAVINGS ARE...
561 YEN...
THAT'S ALL


NANDA


……

COME ON!
COME ON!
THERE IS NO GOD...
かくし
COME ON!

NA NA
NAH NAH!
♪
NA NA
NAH
NAH!
♪
YES,
JACKPOT
AGAIN!!
THERE
IS A
GOD!!
HEY
HEY
HEY!

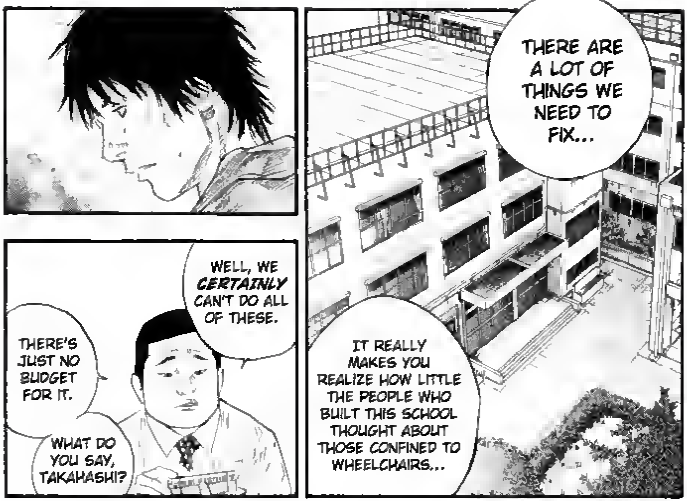
NOBU,
KITAHARA-SENSEI IS A VERY NICE AND CARING TEACHER, ISN'T SHE?
SHE'S DONE SO MUCH FOR YOU.
.....
WELL, LET'S GO!
AT THIS TIME ON SUNDAY, MOST CLUBS ARE DONE FOR THE DAY, SO NOBODY WILL BE AROUND.

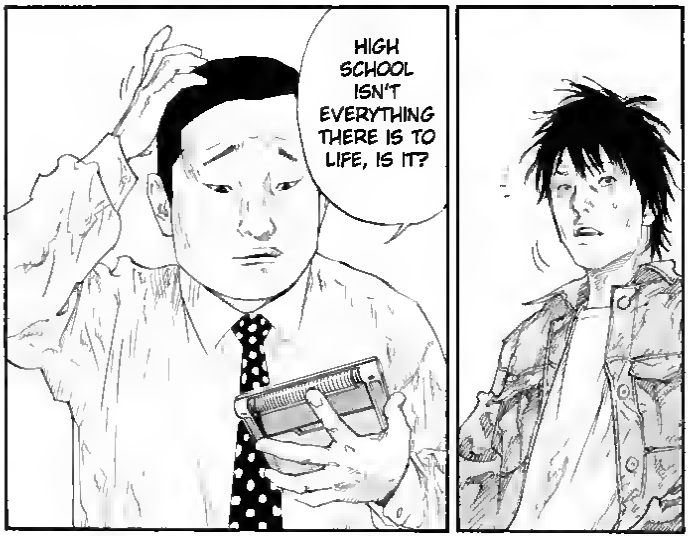
STAIRS ALREADY ...
HERE WE GO!
ガシャン
WE'LL NEED A SLOPE.
Just six months since the last time I visited, and it feels different already.
But not in a nostalgic way
It's like
WE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE HEIGHT OF THE SHOE CUPBOARD, THAT'S JUST RIGHT...

More like there's no place for me here, now...

NOMIYA ?
...HOW IS NOMIYA-KUN?
YES... HE WAS ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM WITH YOU.
YOU DON'T EVER SEE HIM?
NOPE.
I'VE GOT NO POINT OF CONTACT WITH HIM, NOT ONE.
OH...

I... SEE...
AND IF THE STALL ISN'T BIG ENOUGH, HE CAN'T GET HIS WHEELCHAIR INSIDE!!
THE TOILETS HAVE TO BE WESTERN STYLE!
WHISPER WHISPER WHISPER
WHISPER WHISPER WHISPER

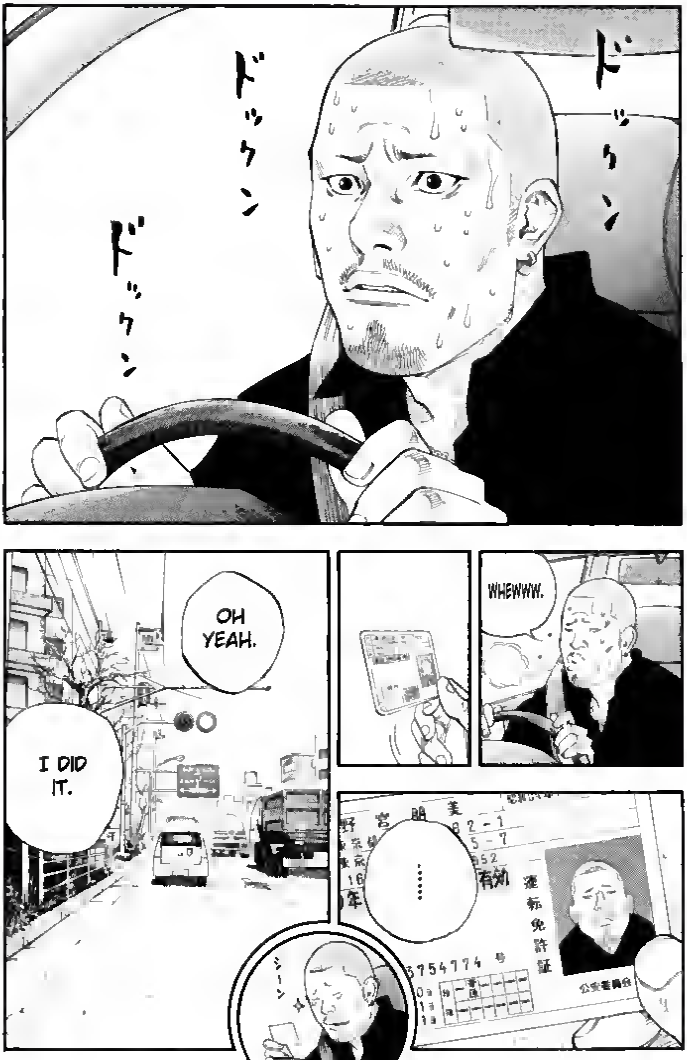

THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS WE NEED TO FIX...
IT REALLY MAKES YOU REALIZE HOW LITTLE THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT THIS SCHOOL THOUGHT ABOUT THOSE CONFINED TO WHEELCHAIRS...
WELL, WE CERTAINLY CAN'T DO ALL OF THESE.
THERE'S JUST NO BUDGET FOR IT.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, TAKAHASHI?


HIGH SCHOOL ISN'T EVERYTHING THERE IS TO LIFE, IS IT?

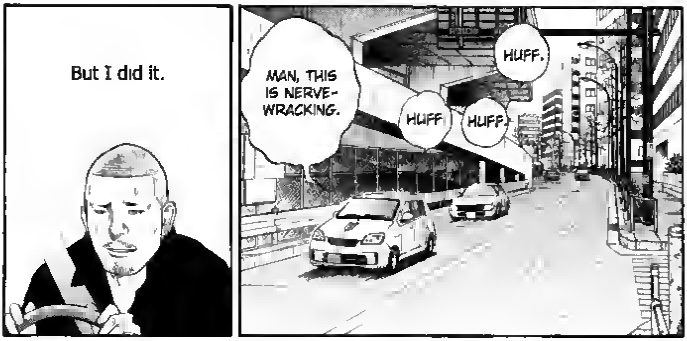
I MEAN, THERE ARE COLLEGE EXAMS SOON.
OR HOW ABOUT SCHOOLS FOR THE HANDICAPPED? DON'T THEY HAVE THOSE?

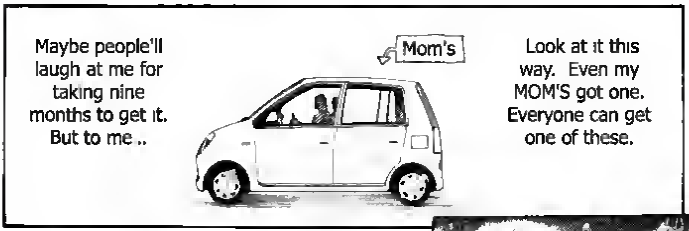
Natsumi
NUHA-HAHA!
FEEL THAT WEIGHT!
こっぽん自動車
THEY AIN'T KICKIN' ME OUT THIS TIME.
TIME TO START OVER AGAIN, FROM THE VERY FIRST STEP...
HERE WE GO.

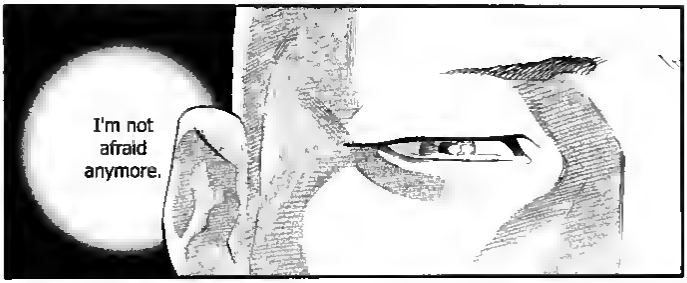
26th.


ドッ
クン
ドッ
クン
WHEWWW.
OH YEAH.
I DID IT.
……
運転免許証
有効
シーン

WHOOPS, LITTLE BOO-BOO THERE!
AND JUDICIOUS SIGNALING!
THUNK
①
②
③
QUICK AND PRECISE SAFETY CHECK!
HIYAH!!
FLUID, RELAXED LANE-CHANGE!!
!!
HONK HONK HONNNK
WHAT THE?!
GIVE THEM A LITTLE "THANK YOU, PAL!" ♡
DON'T FORGET THE PEOPLE WHO LET YOU PULL INTO THEIR LANE


But I did it.
MAN, THIS IS NERVE-WRACKING.
HUFF.
HUFF.
HUFF.


Maybe people'll laugh at me for taking nine months to get it. But to me ..
Mom's
Look at it this way. Even my MOM'S got one. Everyone can get one of these.


I'm not afraid anymore.

This is a huge first step for me.

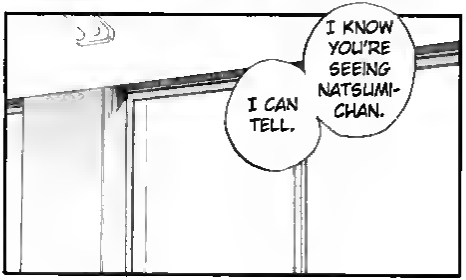
大月出口
Otsuki EXIT
山中湖
Yamanakako
名古屋
Nagoya
長野
Nagano

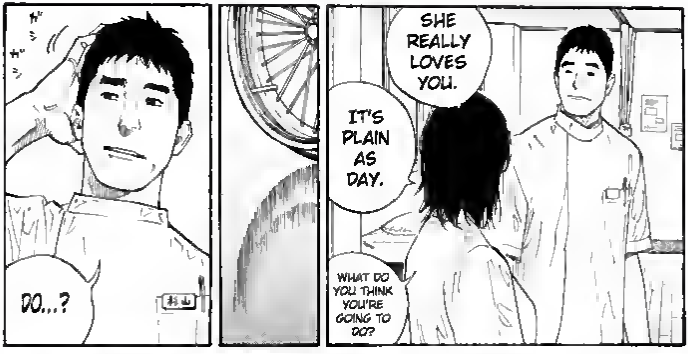
長野
Nagano
Natsumi...!!

STOP IT IF YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS, SUGIYAMA-KUN.

?

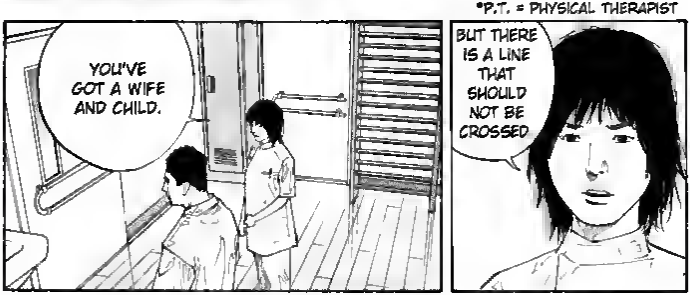
...

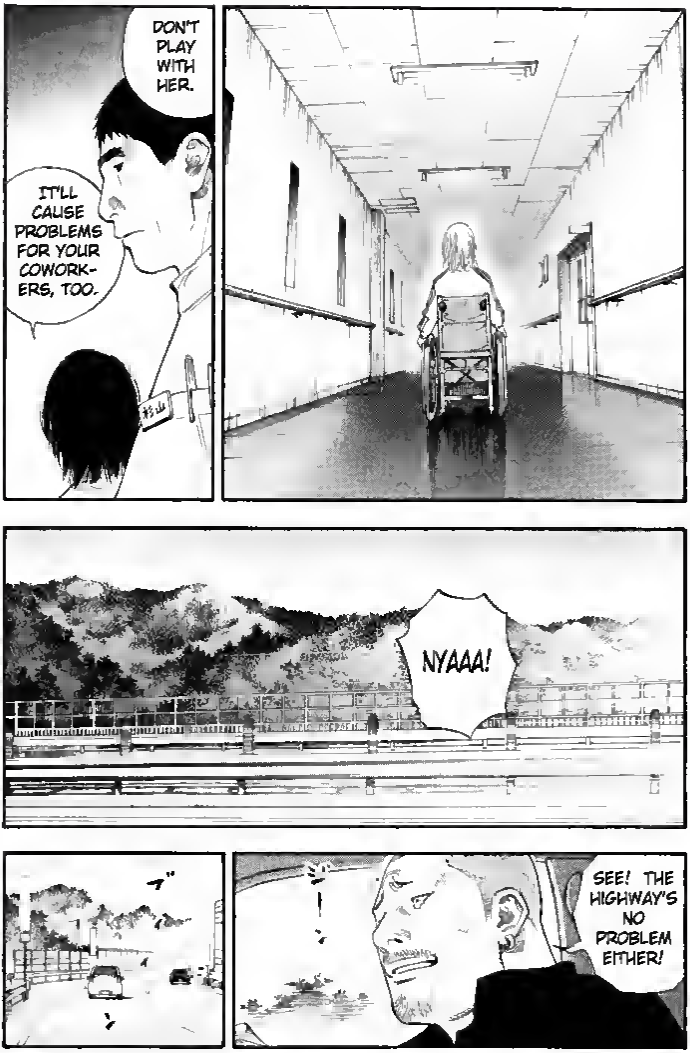

I KNOW YOU'RE SEEING NATSUMI-CHAN.
I CAN TELL.



SO IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR PATIENTS TO FOSTER ROMANTIC FEELINGS FOR THEIR P.T.
WE OFTEN HAVE TO BE THE FOUNDATION THEY CAN BASE THEIR RECOVERY UPON.
IT'S OUR JOB AS P.T.'S TO MOTIVATE PATIENTS.

*P.T. = PHYSICAL THERAPIST




DON'T PLAY WITH HER.
IT'LL CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR YOUR COWORK-ERS, TOO.
NYAAA!
SEE! THE HIGHWAY'S NO PROBLEM EITHER!

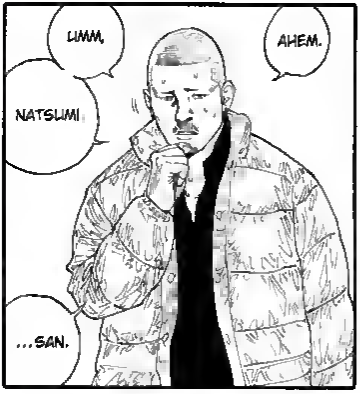
総合病院
……
NOBU!
I JUST WENT AND TALKED TO THE WARD OFFICE!!
HELLO.
KOBAYASHI-SAN! HISANOBU WILL BE BACK IN SCHOOL SOON!
HUH ?
THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE IS GOING TO FORCE THE SCHOOL TO COMPLY
AND MAKE THE CAMPUS TOTALLY ACCESSIBLE TO WHEEL-CHAIR STUDENTS.
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THIS YEAR, BUT THEY CAN GET THE BUDGET SORTED OUT NEXT YEAR!

OH? WHAT'S ALL THE EXCITEMENT FOR TODAY, MA'AM?
OH, DOCTOR!
DON'T THEY HAVE SCHOOLS FOR THE HANDI-CAPPED?
See that? In your face!
In your stupid Noh mask face!
HEH
WHAT... REALLY?
GOOD QUES-TION.
I THINK YOU'RE ABOUT READY TO LEAVE, NOBU.
WHEN WILL HISANOBU BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL?
LEAVE ?
BY NEXT WEEK.
!!
BEING ONE YEAR LATE WON'T HURT YOU TOO MUCH.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE WHO TAKE AN EXTRA YEAR TO GET INTO COLLEGE
NEVER-MIND!
HURT HIM HOW?
SO WHEN CAN HE LEAVE?

THAT MEANS IT'S TIME FOR THE REAL THING, NOBU!
THEN WE'LL TRANSFER HIM TO A HOSPITAL FOR REHA-BILITATION.
SCHOOL ?!
IF HE WENT TO SCHOOL NOW, HE WOULD QUIT, HIMSELF, WITHIN A DAY.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, NOBU?
HUH ?!
W... WAIT A MINUTE, WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL...
BUT I TALKED WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD...
I'M NOT SPEAKING OF FACILI-TIES. I MEAN HE HIMSELF.
HE STILL CAN'T DO THAT ON HIS OWN, CAN HE?
UH, BUT...
HE KNOWS BETTER THAN ANYONE.
WHAT IF HE NEEDS TO USE THE BATH-ROOM?
.....

LOOK, ALL THIS STUFF ABOUT GOING TO THE BATHROOM ASIDE...
BUT...
SHUT UP ALREADY, MOM...
I don't even know if I "want" to go back..
YOU'LL HAVE TRAINING TO GO THROUGH, TAKAHASHI-KUN.
THIS IS GOODBYE, NOBU.

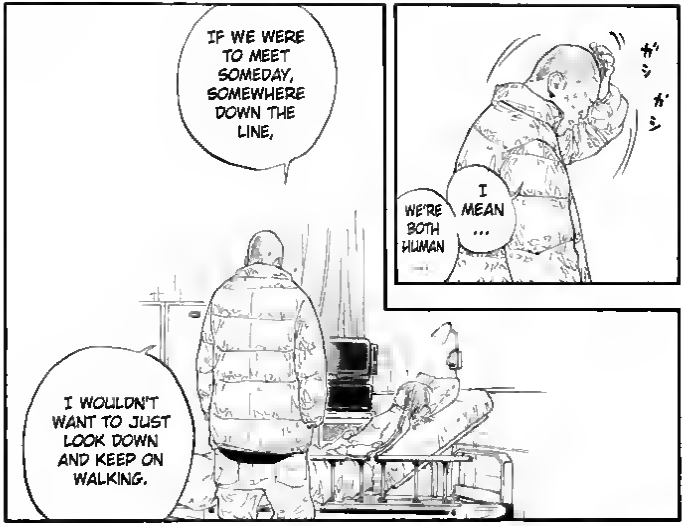
SSSS
ruuuu


UMM,
AHEM.
NATSUMI
...SAN.

.....

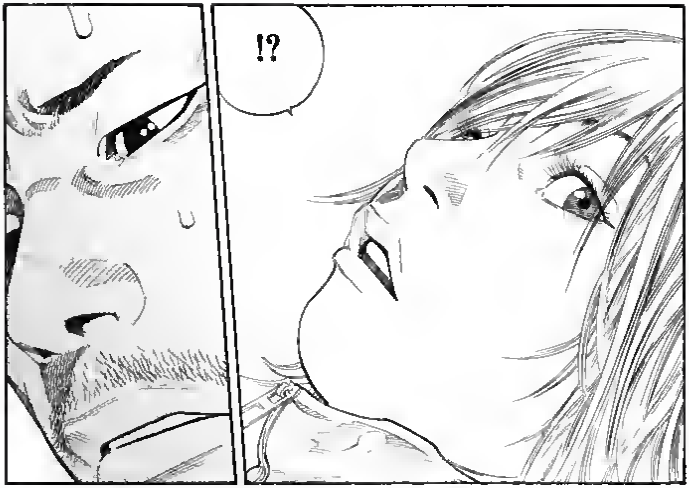
WHAT DOES THE NAME NOMIYA MEAN?
TO YOU...
.....
A GUY WHO LEFT ME UNABLE TO WALK.
IN OTHER WORDS ...
A FLIRT.
A MOTOR-CYCLE CRASHER.

W... WOW, YOU DON'T HOLD BACK.
YEESH.
AN ASSAILANT.
ACK.
TO... TO ME, YOU'RE LIKE...
...BUT YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
A SET. OF BOTH THE TERRIBLE MEMORY OF THE CRASH, AND INCREDIBLE REGRET THAT FOLLOWED.
THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN TO ME.
IF I COULD, I WOULDN'T SEE YOU.
I'M AFRAID OF MEETING YOU.
BUT I DON'T WANT IT TO END JUST LIKE THIS.


IF WE WERE TO MEET SOMEDAY, SOMEWHERE DOWN THE LINE,
I WOULDN'T WANT TO JUST LOOK DOWN AND KEEP ON WALKING.
ガシ ガシ
I MEAN ...
WE'RE BOTH HUMAN

LOOK, I TOOK MY FIRST STEP, THE ONE I COULDN'T TAKE AFTER THAT ACCIDENT.
I GOT MY LICENSE!
CHECK IT
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE THAT IN MYSELF.
WHAT IS YOUR POINT?
ﾊﾞﾘ
...

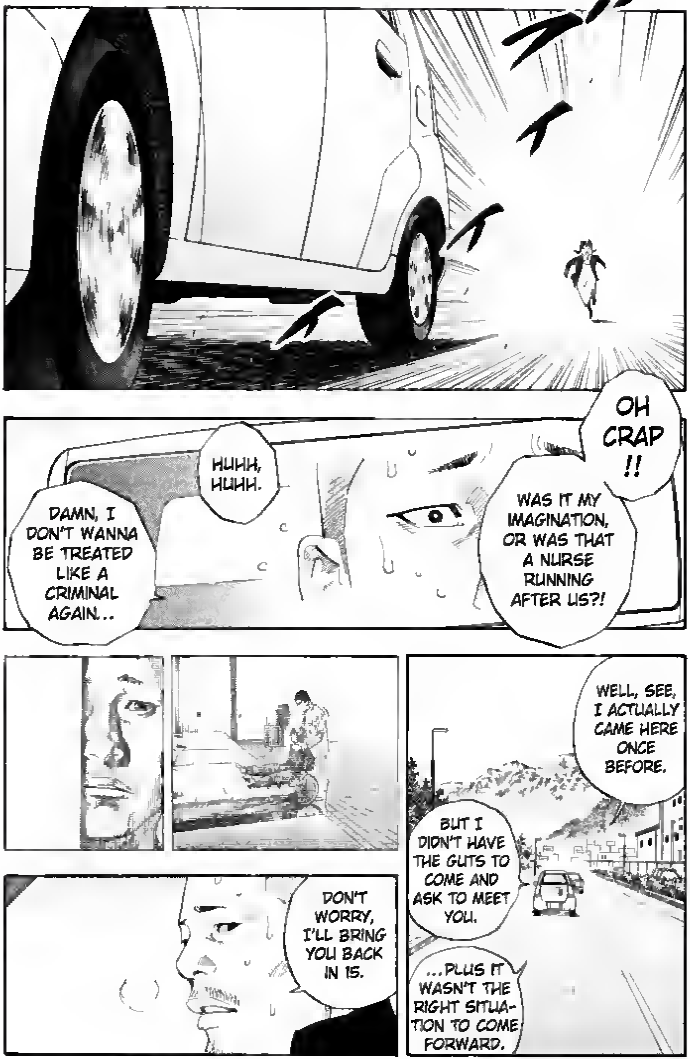
COME ON A DRIVE WITH ME.

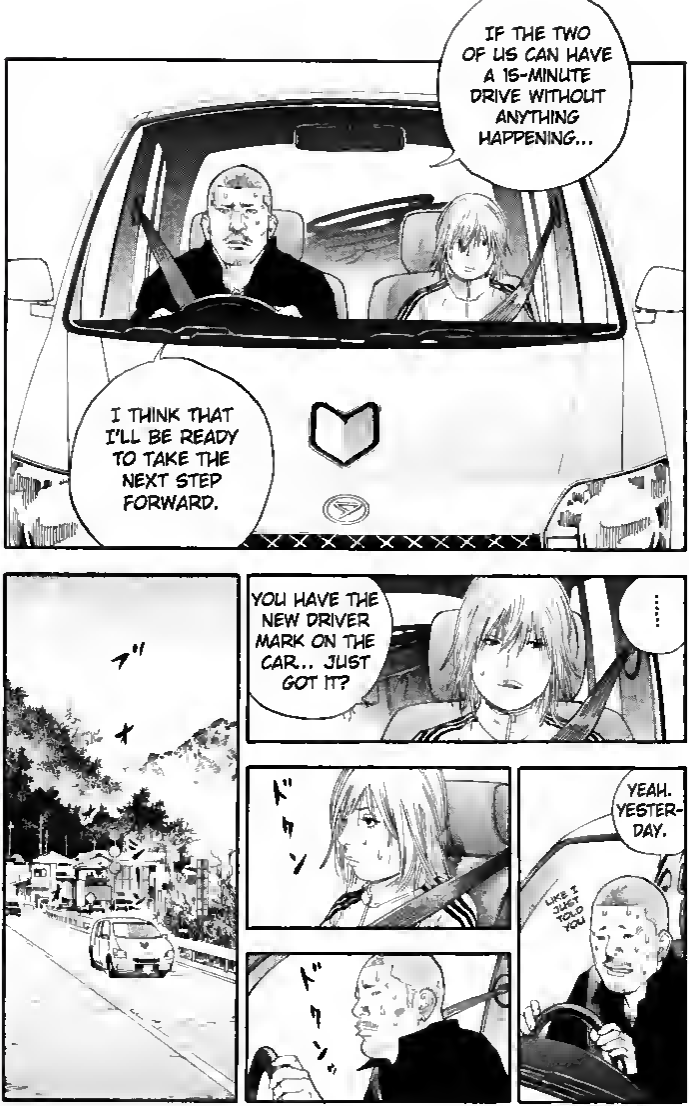


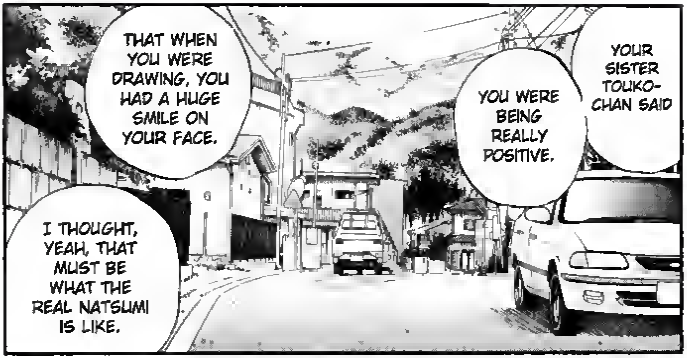
THEY WON'T GIVE YOU PERMISSION WITHOUT A DOCTOR IN THE CAR.
W-W-WHAT?
THAT GIRL CAN'T GO ON ANY DRIVES.
MY MOM GOT IT ON HER 2ND TRIP TO KOREA...
OH, I KNOW THIS IS LATE, BUT HERE'S SOME SAM-GYETANG.

Don't play with her.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, HONEY?
You've got a wife and child.
I WANT OUT.
I WANT TO GET OUTSIDE.


OH CRAP !!
WAS IT MY IMAGINATION, OR WAS THAT A NURSE RUNNING AFTER US?!
HUHH, HUHH.
DAMN, I DON'T WANNA BE TREATED LIKE A CRIMINAL AGAIN...
WELL, SEE, I ACTUALLY CAME HERE ONCE BEFORE.
BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO COME AND ASK TO MEET YOU.
...PLUS IT WASN'T THE RIGHT SITUATION TO COME FORWARD.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BRING YOU BACK IN 15.


IF THE TWO OF US CAN HAVE A 15-MINUTE DRIVE WITHOUT ANYTHING HAPPENING...
I THINK THAT I'LL BE READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP FORWARD.
YOU HAVE THE NEW DRIVER MARK ON THE CAR... JUST GOT IT?
.....
YEAH. YESTER-DAY.
LIKE I JUST TOLD YOU


I THOUGHT, YEAH, THAT MUST BE WHAT THE REAL NATSUMI IS LIKE.
THAT WHEN YOU WERE DRAWING, YOU HAD A HUGE SMILE ON YOUR FACE.
YOU WERE BEING REALLY POSITIVE.
YOUR SISTER TOUKO-CHAN SAID

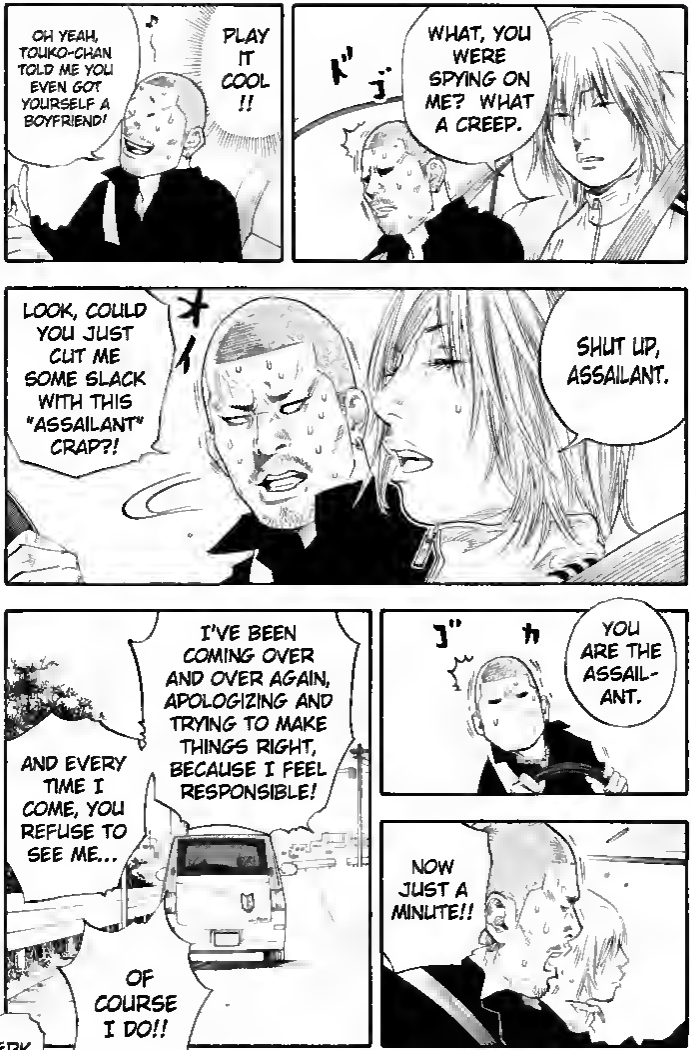
YIKES, NOW SHE LOOKS SCARIER THAN EVER...
HUH?

L!

I SAW YOU IN REHAB, TOO.

All I ought to do is give Natsumi a ride for 15 minutes, and bring her back safely.

Nah, this is for the best.


OH YEAH, TOUKO-CHAN TOLD ME YOU EVEN GOT YOURSELF A BOYFRIEND!
PLAY IT COOL !!
WHAT, YOU WERE SPYING ON ME? WHAT A CREEP.
LOOK, COULD YOU JUST CUT ME SOME SLACK WITH THIS "ASSAILANT" CRAP?!
SHUT UP, ASSAILANT.
I'VE BEEN COMING OVER AND OVER AGAIN, APOLOGIZING AND TRYING TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT, BECAUSE I FEEL RESPONSIBLE!
AND EVERY TIME I COME, YOU REFUSE TO SEE ME...
OF COURSE I DO!!
ERK.
YOU ARE THE ASSAIL-ANT.
NOW JUST A MINUTE!!

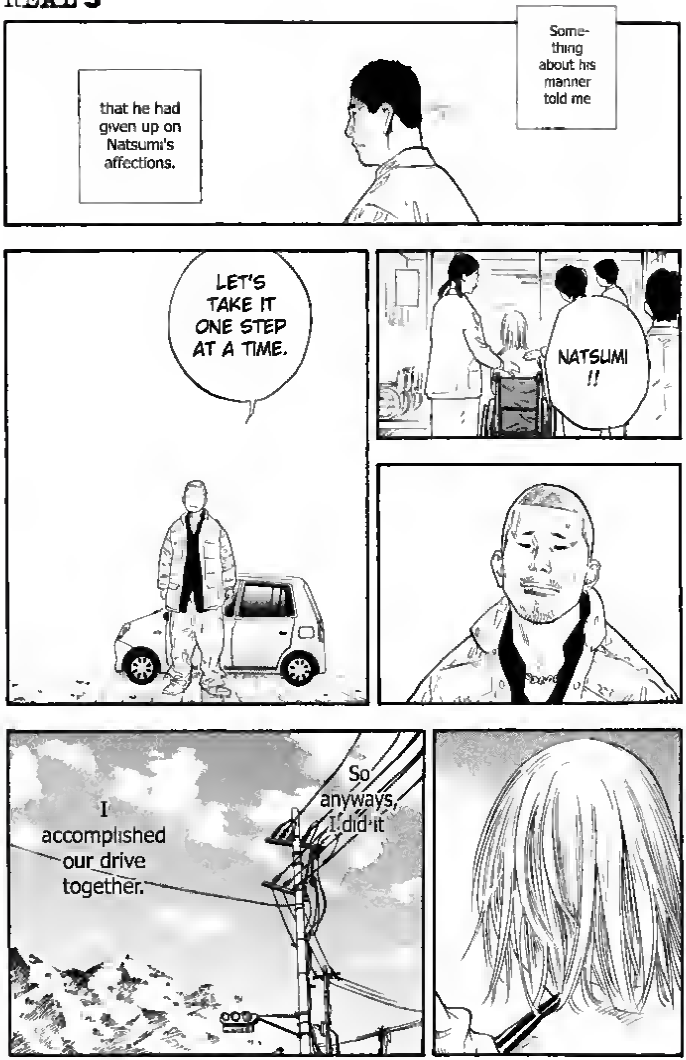
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I'VE HAD TO GO THROUGH, BECAUSE OF YOU?!
I HAD MY LIFE RUINED FOREVER AT AGE 18! BECAUSE OF YOU!!
HANG ON A SECOND!!
THEN YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN UP MY OFFER THE FIRST TIME I HIT ON YOU!!
No, don't say that, you idiot!!
Natsumi's right!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE JUST HOPPED UP ON MY BIKE THEN!!
YOU THINK YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THAT CHOICE?!
Oh God.

HUH ?!
WH... WHAT?! YOU'RE THE ONE AT FAULT FOR THIS WHOLE MESS!! WHY ARE YOU YELLING AT ME?!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A DAMN THING!!
HOW THE FUCK COULD YOU UNDER-STAND
HOW SOMEONE WHO CAN'T WALK ANYMORE FEELS?!
I CAN STILL WALK!!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND!

LISTEN, I-
JESUS, SLOW DOWN!!
YOU IDIOT!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHOSE LIFE WAS CHANGED BY THAT ACCIDENT!
HUFF, HUFF.
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THE ACCIDENT?!
NO MONEY!
NO GIRL-FRIEND!
GOT NO JOB!
I QUIT PLAYING B-BALL!
I QUIT HIGH SCHOOL!
THEY LAUGH AT ME, AT INTER-VIEWS!
I PLAYED A MONSTER!!
THE ONE JOB I GOT, I WAS FIRED IN A SINGLE DAY!!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE IN PAIN!
NOTHING ELSE HAS GONE MY WAY SINCE IT HAPPENED!

STILL, I FINALLY GOT MY LICENSE, AFTER NINE MONTHS!!
BUT STILL...
HUH...? WHAT WAS I TRYING TO SAY?
HAH
HAH
HE'S ONE OF THE REHAB DOCTORS, RIGHT?
LOOKS LIKE A PRETTY SWELL GUY.
SO THAT GUY YOU LIKE...
IT'S BEEN 15 MINUTES.

I'M SURE HE'LL BE YOUR SUPPORT.
!?
SHUT THE FUCK UP!!
When we returned to the rehab clinic, I was all but branded a kidnapper,
And among the crowd of employees outside the front entrance, I recognized the same doctor.


that he had given up on Natsumi's affections.
Something about his manner told me
LET'S TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A TIME.
NATSUMI !!
I accomplished our drive together.
So anyways, I did it

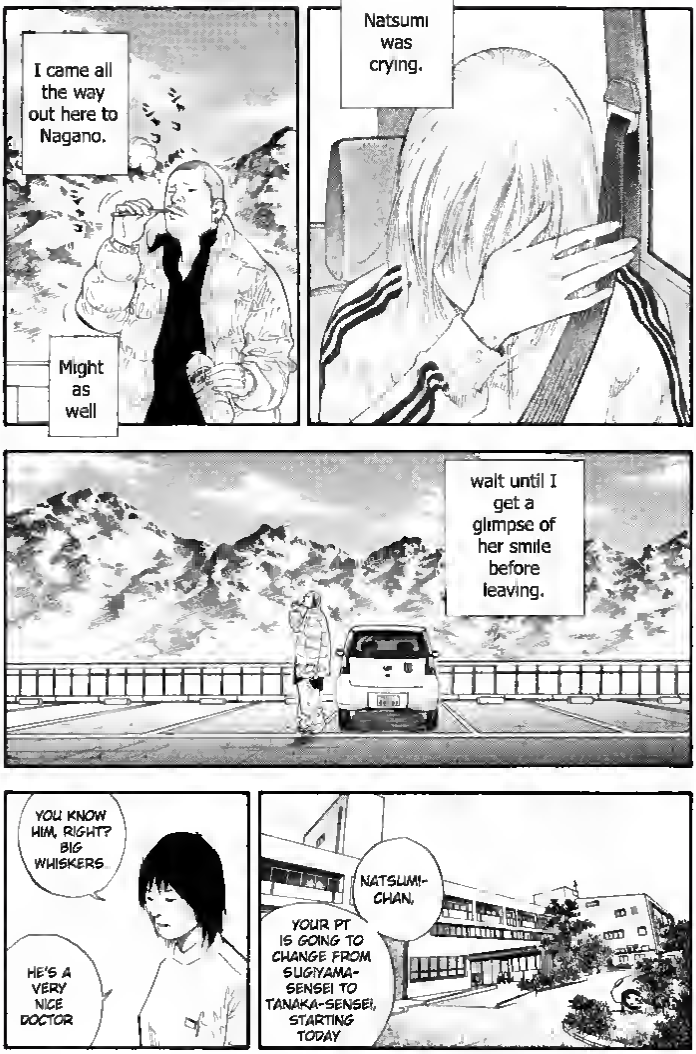
KIRIN
キリンビール
中華定食
うらん
KIRIN
WHOOO
WHOOO
GERGH!
BRACK!
BWEH
OGH!
Wheelchair
Basketball
TOGAWA
Handicapped
Sports
WH
...
WHAT
THE...
HUFF,
HUFF.

Series! Special
The Truth of Handicapped Sports
Japan Wheelchair Basketball Representative
Kiyoharu Tog
Japan's Fastest Sprinter in Middle School!?

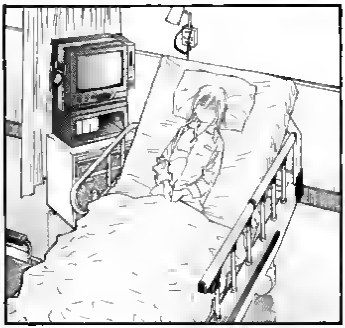
DAMN YOU, VINCE!
YOU JUST KEEP GETTING FURTHER AND FURTHER AHEAD...!!

27th.

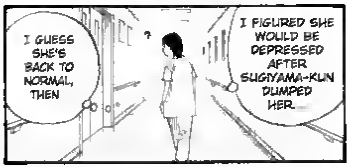
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
I KNOW! I'LL BE HOME TODAY!
AND I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR CAR BACK! JUST ONE MORE DAY!
BRAK
BRAK
BRAK
HEY, MOM.
NO, STILL IN NAGANO.
OK! OK, NO PROBLEM!! YOU GOT IT!!
GOOD BYE!!
BEEP
GEEZ! NO, I HAVE NOT SCRATCHED IT UP!!
HUH?
What?
You want to know why I'm still in Nagano?

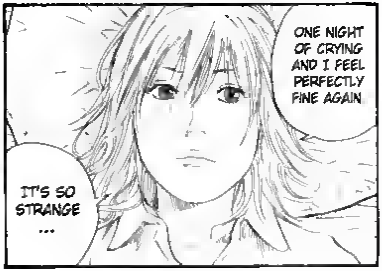

I came all the way out here to Nagano.
Might as well
Natsumi was crying.
wait until I get a glimpse of her smile before leaving.
YOU KNOW HIM, RIGHT? BIG WHISKERS
HE'S A VERY NICE DOCTOR
NATSUMI-CHAN,
YOUR PT IS GOING TO CHANGE FROM SUGIYAMA-SENSEI TO TANAKA-SENSEI, STARTING TODAY

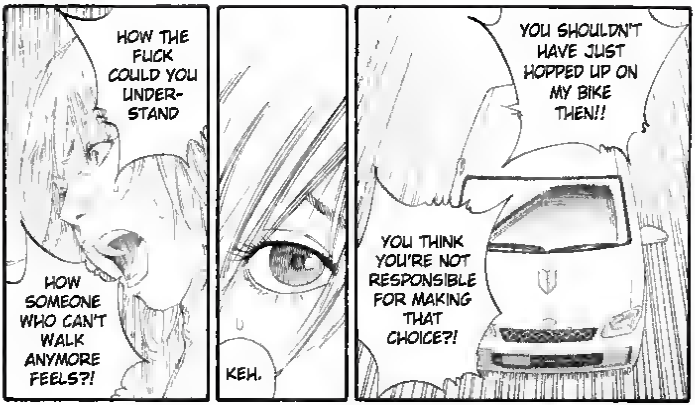
SURE.

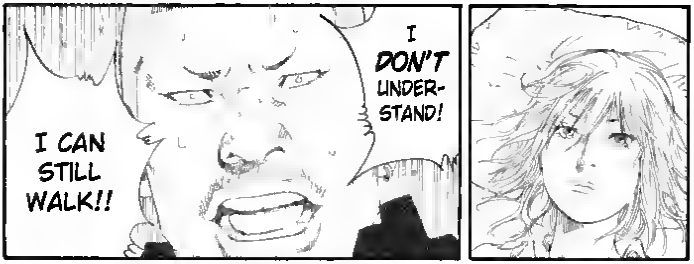


SHE'S... HAPPY?

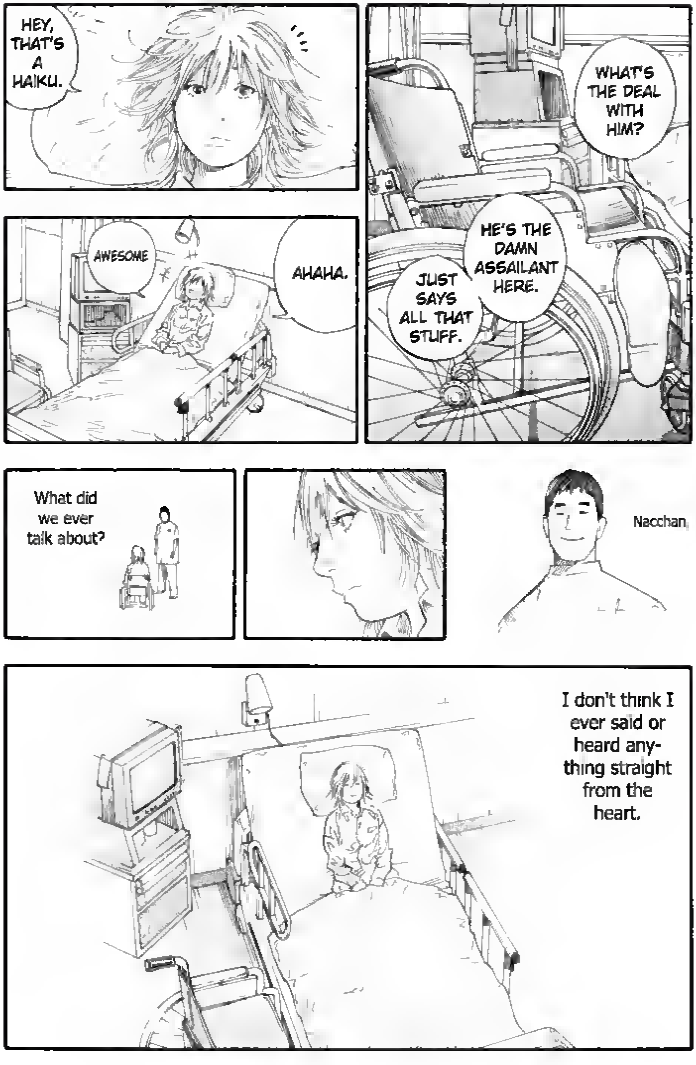

I GUESS SHE'S BACK TO NORMAL, THEN
I FIGURED SHE WOULD BE DEPRESSED AFTER SUGIYAMA-KUN DUMPED HER.

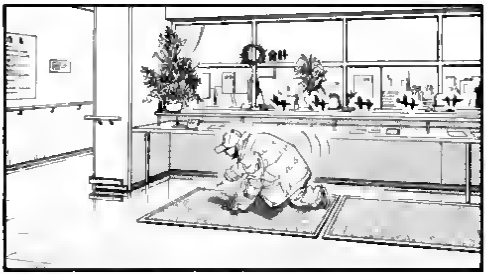

ONE NIGHT OF CRYING AND I FEEL PERFECTLY FINE AGAIN.
IT'S SO STRANGE ...


HOW THE FUCK COULD YOU UNDER-STAND
HOW SOMEONE WHO CAN'T WALK ANYMORE FEELS?!
KEH.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE JUST HOPPED UP ON MY BIKE THEN!!
YOU THINK YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THAT CHOICE?!

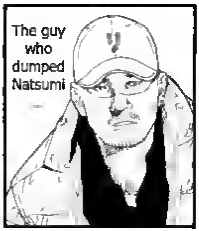


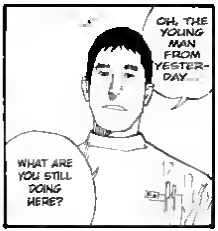
He just says all that stuff.


HEY, THAT'S A HAIKU.
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH HIM?
HE'S THE DAMN ASSAILANT HERE.
JUST SAYS ALL THAT STUFF.
AWESOME
AHAHA.
What did we ever talk about?
Nacchan
I don't think I ever said or heard anything straight from the heart.



They've got me on their blacklist already!!
Must I proceed to Natsumi's room with the utmost caution!!


The guy who dumped Natsumi


OH, THE YOUNG MAN FROM YESTERDAY...
WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE?

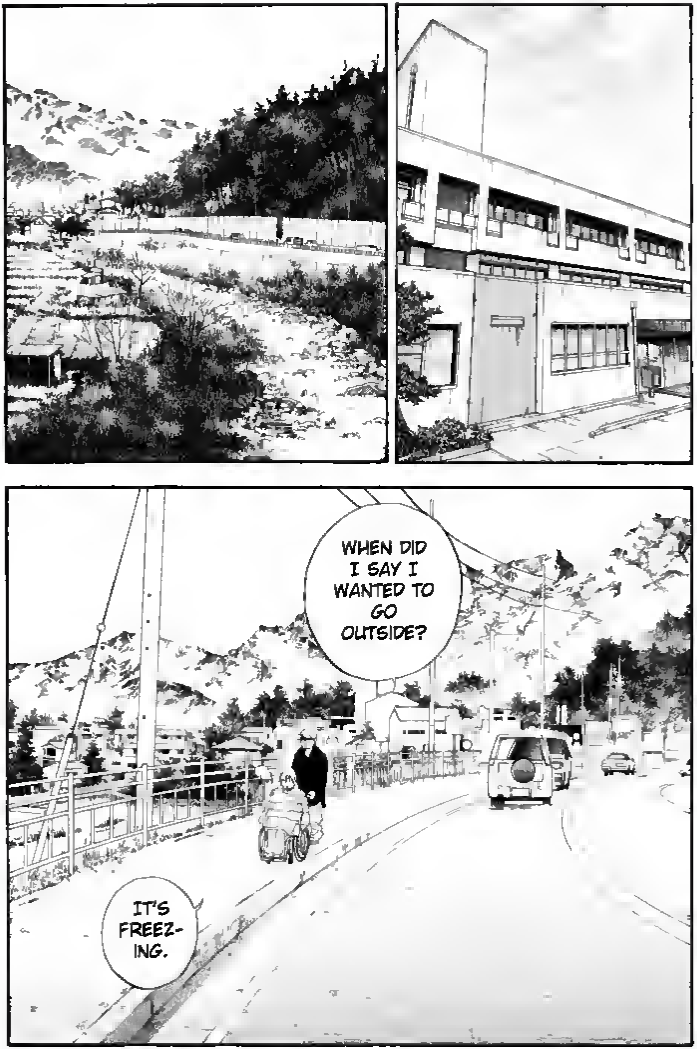
HMM-

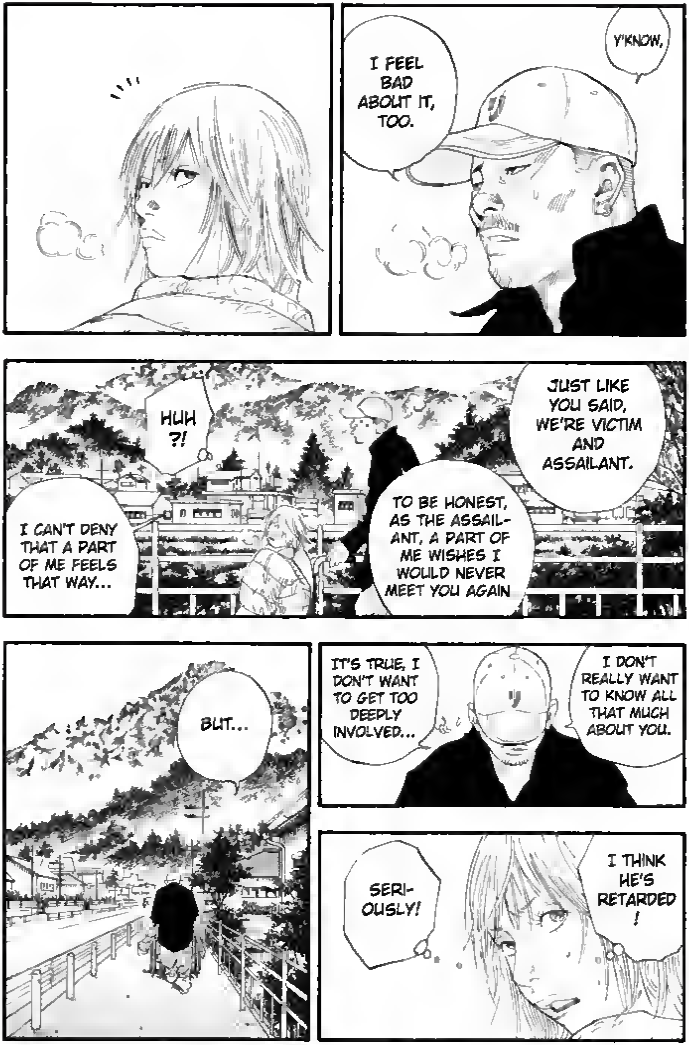
SENSEI
I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT NATSUMI.
I FIGURED WITH YOU HERE, I WOULDN'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT STUFF, BUT...

I MEAN, C'MON WHAT KIND OF A GUY DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?
WH. .
I WOULDN'T ASK "WHY'D YOU DUMP HER?
OR START HITTING YOU OR ANYTHING
WELL, IT'S BETWEEN THE MAN AND WOMAN, I GUESS.
LOOK, DOC
JUST STAMP THE OUTSIDE PERMISSION FORM FOR ME
HUH ?
GOOD QUESTION.
ASSAIL-ANT, I GUESS
Y-YOU'RE YAMASHITA NATSUMI'S WHAT, EXACTLY?

I CAME ALL THE WAY FROM TOKYO TO SEE HER,
BUT SHE WAS CRYING. BECAUSE OF YOU.
I WANT TO SEE HER SMILE BEFORE I LEAVE.
WHAT'S A LITTLE STAMP TO YOU?
URGH
C'MON.
OH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO TAKE HER OUT IN A CAR.
HOW EVER ...
WHAT ?!
WHAT DO YOU SAY, DOCTOR ?
DO WE HAVE A DEAL?
.....
HI.
GOOD.
I DON'T SEE A PROBLEM WITH GOING FOR A WALK.


WHEN DID I SAY I WANTED TO GO OUTSIDE?
IT'S FREEZ-ING.


I FEEL BAD ABOUT IT, TOO.
Y'KNOW,
JUST LIKE YOU SAID, WE'RE VICTIM AND ASSAILANT.
HUH ?!
TO BE HONEST, AS THE ASSAILANT, A PART OF ME WISHES I WOULD NEVER MEET YOU AGAIN
I CAN'T DENY THAT A PART OF ME FEELS THAT WAY...
BUT...
IT'S TRUE, I DON'T WANT TO GET TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED...
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO KNOW ALL THAT MUCH ABOUT YOU.
SERI-OUSLY!
I THINK HE'S RETARDED !

I WANNA BE ABLE TO SMILE WHEN I SEE YOU.
YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU THE OTHER DAY.
I DON'T WANNA JUST LOOK THE OTHER WAY IF I EVER RUN INTO YOU AGAIN.
You're doing a good job saying too much today, too!
へこり
ANYWAYS, I SAID TOO MUCH YESTERDAY. I APOLOGIZE ABOUT THAT
SO...
MEANS YOU'RE FRIENDS.
I THINK BEING ABLE TO SMILE WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE...

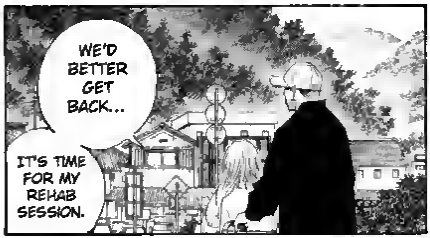
LET'S BE FRIENDS,
NATSUMI.

BE MY FRIEND.

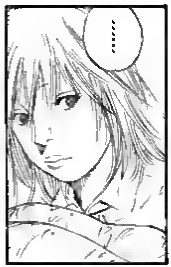
.....!!
HEY, YOU REMEMBER?
WE WERE WALKING TOGETHER LIKE THIS ONE DAY A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN WE HEARD THE SOUND OF DRIBBLING...
Special Series!
The Truth of Handicapped Sports
Japan Wheelchair Basketball Representative

REMEMBER HIM?
I PLAYED 1-ON-1 AGAINST HIM. TOTAL JERKASS
LISTEN TO THE POT. . .
DUDE'S TAKEN IT ONE STEP AT A TIME...
AND LOOK WHERE THEY'RE WRITING ABOUT HIM NOW.
障害者
スバスケ
HEHEH... CRAZY BASTARD.
LOOK HERE.
ACTUALLY THERE'S A BIT OF A SAUCE STAIN THERE.
FROM RAMEN
IF I HADN'T MET HIM, I'D BE A RUINED MAN ALREADY.
IT'S HIM INSIDE ME...

PUSHING ME ON THE BACK,
MOVING ME FORWARD.


WE'D BETTER GET BACK...
IT'S TIME FOR MY REHAB SESSION.

IS IT ME,
OR AM I DOING ALL THE TALKING?

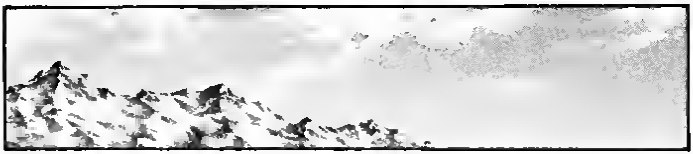

.....

OH ...
YEAH.
!!!!

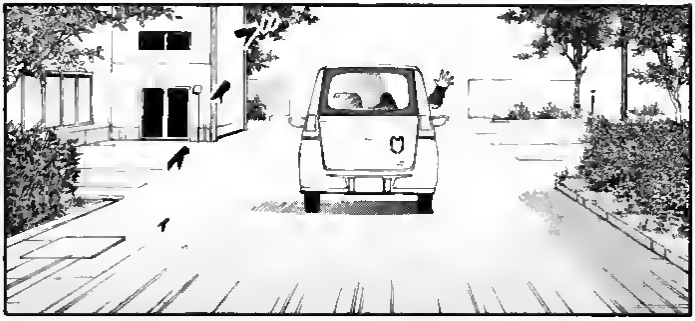
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT CHEER YOU UP.
YEAH.
HEY, CAN I KEEP THIS?
ACTUALLY.
I JUST THINK HE'S HOT.

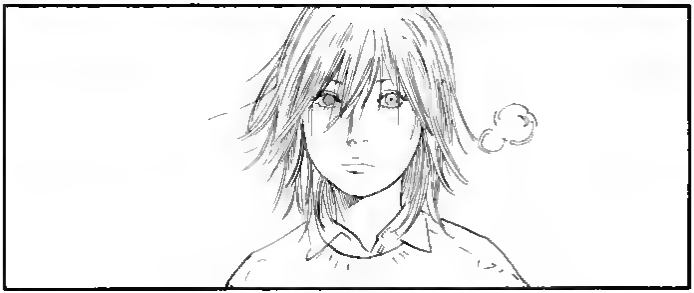
Natsumi smiled.

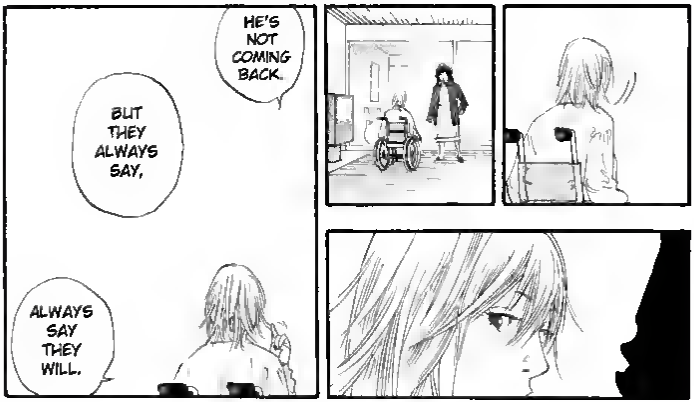
I don't care.



THE ASSAILANT DOESN'T WANT TO SEE HIS VICTIM EVER AGAIN.
I'LL COME BACK AGAIN.
YEAH, WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.
LIKE, WHY DO YOU LIKE BASKETBALL SO MUCH, NATSUMI?
OR SOME-THING.
NEXT TIME I COME, I'LL HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ME!






HE'S NOT COMING BACK.
BUT THEY ALWAYS SAY,
ALWAYS SAY THEY WILL.

AND IN CLOSING, JUST ONE MORE QUESTION.
CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE?
DREAMS ...
.....
.....

.....
.....
CAN I ASSUME THE PARALYMPICS
UH... IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK OF ONE
.....
THEN I'D LIKE TO COMPETE IN THE PARALYMPICS.
ARE LIKE THE BIGGEST WORLD-WIDE EVENT FOR THIS?
AND THEN...
HMM ...
WELL, IT'S A SAFE ANSWER FOR AN ARTICLE...
IT'S A COMPETITION HELD TO DETERMINE THE BEST IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.
YES, THAT WOULD BE CORRECT.

I'D LIKE TO SEE THE FASTEST GUY IN THE WHOLE WORLD.
AND...
BEAT HIM.
THAT'S ALL.

SHIT !!
REBOUND!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
IT'S LOOSE !!
IT'S STILL A LIVE BALL!
THE BALL'S LOOSE! CHASE IT DOWN !!
HUFF
HUFF

OH DEAR ...
HUFF
HUFF
TOGAWA, LET'S TAKE A BREAK.
ALWAYS BE PERSISTENT WHEN CHASING THE BALL!
OKAY, ANOTHER LESSON!!
WE'RE ONLY PLAYING WITH FIVE PEOPLE.
HUFF
WE JUST TOOK ONE, DIDN'T WE?
HUFF
HUFF
IF YOU DON'T GIVE US MORE BREAK TIME, WE'LL NEVER KEEP UP.
HUFF
HUH ?!

HUFF
IT'S HARD FOR ME, TOO!
HUFF
ISN'T PRACTICE SUPPOSED TO BE HARD, BY DESIGN?
HUFF
YOU'RE STILL 19. WE DON'T HAVE YOUR KIND OF STAMINA
HUFF
HUFF
WE DIDN'T RENT THIS COURT SO WE COULD REST ON IT!!
LOOK, WE'RE NOT GOING TO LAST AN ENTIRE PRACTICE AT THIS RATE!!
IT TOOK A LONG TIME TO GET!!
ポ
ポ
GUESS I'LL BE GOING ...

WE'RE NOT ON THE JAPANESE WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TEAM!! WE'RE NOT LIKE YOU!!
IF WE CAN'T KEEP UP, WE CAN'T KEEP UP!! PLAIN AND SIMPLE!!
HUH?
OKAY, LET'S TAKE A BREAK.
I WANT TO HEAR YOU SHOUTING LIKE THAT ON THE COURT, THOUGH.
AAAA AHH !!

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME TODAY.
I'M GOING TO WATCH THE PRACTICE FOR A BIT, THEN LEAVE
SHIT.
OH, RIGHT!
AND THE TOPIC OF YOU CAME UP A COUPLE TIMES.
I RECENTLY DID AN INTERVIEW WITH YASUDA-SAN, THE COACH FOR THE DREAMS
THIS WON'T BE IN THE ARTICLE, BUT,
HAVE YOU DECIDED TO TRANSFER?

NO, I DON'T THINK SO...
TRANSFER TO THE DREAMS, I MEAN.
THE DREAMS HAVE TWO MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL TEAM,
AND GUARD NAGAI.
THEIR CENTER FUJIKURA,
SO I THINK IT WOULD BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU.
FOR ATHLETES, THIS IS THE KIND OF TIME THEY MAKE GREAT STRIDES.
YOU'RE 19 YEARS OLD,
AND CHOSEN FOR THE JAPANESE TEAM.
IT'S ALWAYS BETTER TO PLAY IN THE HIGHEST-LEVEL ENVIRONMENT YOU CAN.

COACH YASUDA WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR JOINING, AS WELL.
I don't plan to transfer.
WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO ON A TEAM WITH ONLY 5 MEMBERS...?
HE SAID THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A STEADY PRACTICE SPACE GUARANTEED.
IS HE JUST GOING TO WASTE THE BEST PERIOD OF HIS ATHLETIC CAREER TO SNUB SOMEONE...?
WHAT A SHAME.

EXCUSE ME.
OH
HUH?
THE WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL PRACTICE INSIDE?
ARE THEY STILL HOLDING
IT'S A TEAM CALLED THE TIGERS.
WH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?!

YOU CAN'T RUSH IT. JUST TAKE ONE STEP AT A TIME.
DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT THAT THEY DON'T WANT TO PLAY.
THINK SO?
I'M ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
MY PLANS BACK-FIRE,
AND THINGS ARE ONCE AGAIN LIKE THEY WERE BEFORE.
HEY, TOGAWA !!
C'MERE, QUICK!!
HURRY !!
GRRR
HEH. EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.
WHA-
HUH ...?
WHY ...?
HUH ?!
LET'S GO
SEE ?!
THEY ARE READY! IT'LL WORK OUT!
THEY'RE SLOWLY BEING INFECTED BY TOGAWA-ISM.

OH.
ALL RIGHT, I'LL START OVER...
IS THIS EVERY-ONE?

I WANT TO JOIN THE TIGERS.
IF YOU'VE GOT AN ENTRANCE TEST, I'D LIKE TO TAKE IT.
GOOD.
MATE
NO ...
WE DON'T ...

The magazine for enjoying handicapped sports x10
Parareal
Nakamura Taizou
Shueisha Corp
Parareal Editor's Dept.
28th.
SIGHHHH.
OH, COME ON
WOULD YOU STOP SIGHING? HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU DONE THAT TODAY?
WE'RE ABOUT TO GO REPORT ON THE NATIONAL TEAM TRAINING CAMP!
SHUT UP. WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW?
MY LIFE AS AN EDITOR IS FINISHED. KAPUT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, HIROYA?
IS BASKET-BALL A MAJOR SPORT OR NOT?
EIGHT YEARS I SPENT EIGHT YEARS WORKING AT WEEKLY BASKETBALL.
YOU KNOW WHAT I DID THERE?
HUH? NO...
SEE? NOBODY EVEN TRIES TO UNDERSTAND, DAMMIT
OF COURSE !!
IN JAPAN?

DING-DONG!
AHH
I SEE. SO IT'S NOT MAJOR.
HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY POSE THAT QUESTION ANYWHERE OTHER THAN JAPAN?
EVEN ELSEWHERE IN ASIA, WHICH IS TYPICALLY LOW-LEVEL ON THE WORLD SCENE, THEY HAVE PROFESSIONAL LEAGUES!
EVERY COUNTRY HAS AT LEAST ONE OR TWO PLAYERS THAT EVERYONE KNOWS!!
I SWORE I WOULD USE THE POWER OF THE MAGAZINE TO MAKE BASKETBALL A MAJOR JAPANESE SPORT.
I SPENT EIGHT YEARS TRYING TO CHANGE THAT...
AND DESPITE ALL OF MY HARD WORK AND DEDICATION...
IT WAS MY REASON FOR LIVING.
THAT CHALLENGE WAS THE PROOF OF MY EXISTENCE.
LOST MY CHALLENGE, MY REASON FOR LIVING,
I'VE LOST..
MY PROOF OF EXISTENCE...
2004
I GET DEMOTED TO WORKING ON A MAGAZINE THAT SEVERAL PEOPLE IN THE COMPANY DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT!
"PARAREAL" MY ASS!

NO...
SCRATCH THAT.
!?
IS WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL A MAJOR SPORT OR NOT?
IS WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL A SPORT OR NOT?
THAT'S WHERE WE'LL START.
WHAT'S THE ANSWER?
I-I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE.
!!

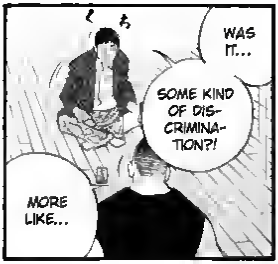
AH!
!!
YOU'LL NEVER FIND A BIGGER CHALLENGE.
LET'S MAKE WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL A MAJOR SPORT, WITH THE POWER OF OUR MAGAZINE.

Several months later…

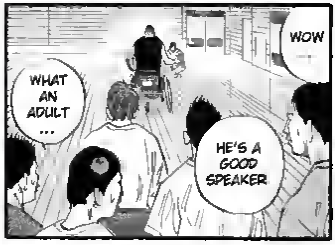
TODAY, I'D LIKE TO GET EVEN MORE FURTHER INSIGHT INTO YOUR MINDS, HAHA!!
LET'S GET STARTED !!
THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPORT ON YOU AT TRAINING CAMP!!

OKAY.
GO AHEAD.
MAY I START THE TAPE?

"JAPANESE?"
"WHAT'S HE DOING PLAYING BASKET-BALL?"
AND IN THEIR COUNTRY, NSW IS ONE OF THE BEST TEAMS THERE IS. THEY THOUGHT,
AUSTRALIA IS ONE OF THE WORLD POWER HOUSES.



NOTE: NSW - NEW SOUTH WALES (AUSTRALIA)

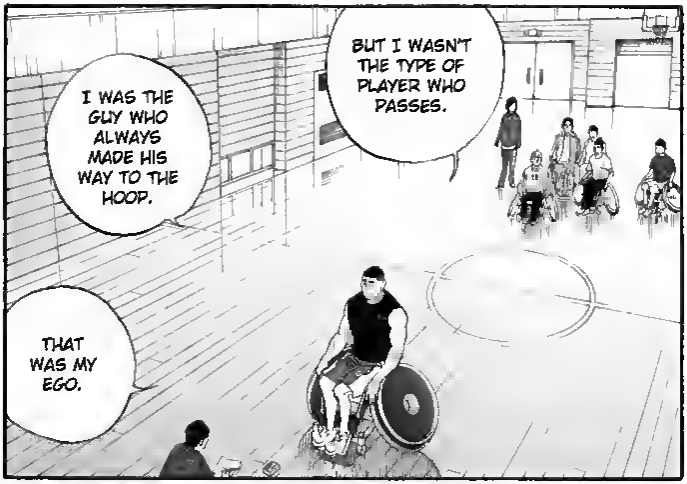


IT WAS A DIF-FERENT THING FROM OUT-RIGHT DIS-CRIMINATION OR RACISM.
AT LEAST, IN MY OPINION
IT'S A THING YOU SEE IN ALL SPORTS JUST SOME-THING YOU CAN'T DO ANY-THING ABOUT.

SHUT UP, JERKS ...
HE'S THE TOTAL OPPOSITE OF TOGAWA ..
ALL HE SAID WAS "YEAH."
.....//
28
TOHEN
.....
NSW
BUT HOW WAS IT THAT NAGANO MITSURU EARNED THE TRUST OF THE PROUD NSW PLAYERS?
...I SEE.
NOW OF COURSE, IN THE END YOU WERE ABLE TO GET YOURSELF A SOLID POSITION IN THE STARTING LINEUP FOR NSW,
I STUDIED UP
TWO MEN LOCKS ARMS AND THEN PUSH THEIR CHINS AGAINST EACH OTHER
WHOEVER LOSES HIS BALANCE OR HAS TO LET HIS ARMS GO, LOSES.
SEE, AUSTRALIA'S GOT A TRADITIONAL STRENGTH COMPETITION CALLED CHIN WRESTLING.
I GAINED THEIR RESPECT BY BEATING EVERY MEMBER OF THE TEAM AT CHIN WRESTLING.
I PROVED TO BE HEAPS GOOD AT THIS.
MY CHIN.
CHIN ?

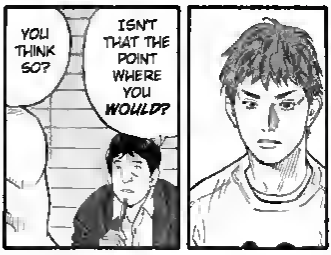
ﾍﾞｸｼ
!?
NSW
PSYCH !!
……
ﾋｰﾝ
ア――ﾊｯﾊｯﾊｯ
HA HA HA! JUST A JOKE, MATE!!
G'DAY MAI'!!
IT WAS MY EGO.

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY EGO?
I WOULD MAKE MY WAY, EVEN IF I HAD TO KNOCK OTHERS ASIDE.
I NEVER LET MY EGO BACK DOWN, UNTIL THEY ACCEPTED ME.
EGO AS IN A PROCLAMATION OF "I AM THE KIND OF MAN WHO PLAYS LIKE THIS."
IT'S A BELIEF VERY SIMILAR TO SAYING, "THIS IS THE WAY I PLAY."
THE GUYS AT NSW ARE PROUD MEN. THEY WOULD ALWAYS DEMAND A PASS FROM ME.
GIMME THE BALL, THEY SAY.
.....


I WAS THE GUY WHO ALWAYS MADE HIS WAY TO THE HOOP.
BUT I WASN'T THE TYPE OF PLAYER WHO PASSES.
THAT WAS MY EGO.

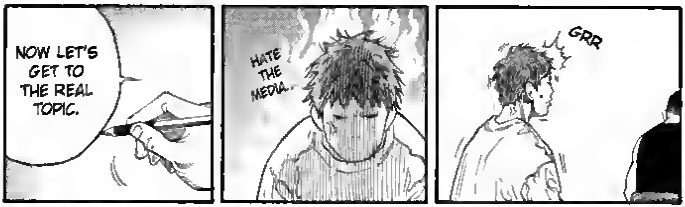
I DIDN'T, BECAUSE I UNDER-STOOD
THAT MY EGO WASN'T AT FAULT.
I JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE TECH-NIQUE TO BACK IT UP.

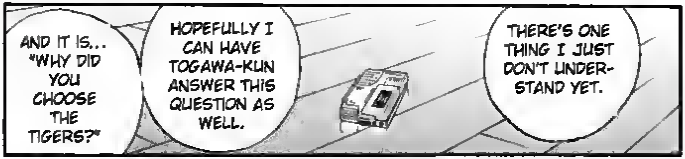
I OFTEN CRIED WHEN I WAS HA HA ALONE
AT THE BEGINNING, I CLASHED WITH OTHERS, AND DIDN'T GET TO PLAY...
BUT I NEVER TUCKED AWAY MY EGO.


YOU THINK SO?
ISN'T THAT THE POINT WHERE YOU WOULD?

WOW.
AND WE'RE GONNA PLAY ON THE SAME TEAM AS HIM.
WHAT CONFI-DENCE.
EGO..
SHIVER
I DIDN'T KNOW WHEN MY SKILLS WOULD PAY OFF,
BUT THEY ACCEPTED ME AS ONE OF THE TEAM
BEFORE I MYSELF BELIEVED THAT I WAS GOOD ENOUGH.
SMITH
14
11

I MUST ADMIT, IT'S VERY EASY TO LISTEN TO YOU SPEAK, NAGANO-KUN.
YOU'RE A VERY GOOD SPEAKER, UNLIKE TOGAWA-KUN.
I SEE...!!


NOW LET'S GET TO THE REAL TOPIC.
HATE THE MEDIA.
GRR


AND IT IS... "WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE TIGERS?"
HOPEFULLY I CAN HAVE TOGAWA-KUN ANSWER THIS QUESTION AS WELL.
THERE'S ONE THING I JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND YET.

TOGA-WA-KUN.
WHY WOULD YOU TURN DOWN A FORCEFUL OFFER FROM THE POWERFUL DREAMS?
28

THIS MIGHT BE INSULTINGLY FRANK, BUT WHY A WEAK TEAM LIKE THE TIGERS?

.....
IT WAS ...
THE DREAMS ?!
HUH?!
WHAT?!
BECAAAAUSE ...
I HAVE TO CARRY ON...
THE HISTORY OF THE TIGERS.

I GUESS ...
REAFFIRMED
HATE THE MEDIA
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
NAGANO-KUN,
カチン
OH WELL
...SORRY, I DON'T UNDER STAND THAT
NAGANO.
TOGAWA
YOU'RE ON THE B (BACKUP) TEAM!
THE NATIONAL TEAM CAMP WAS A LOT OF FUN.
RIGHT, MATE?!

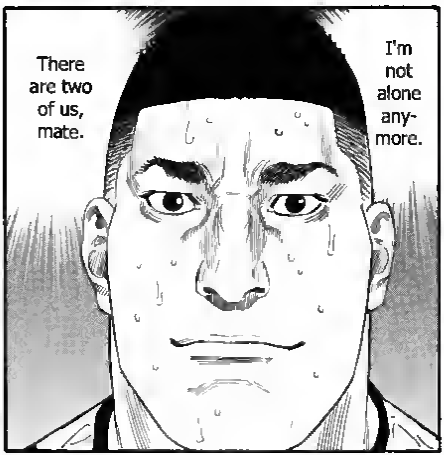
WE'RE BACKUPS?!
HUH?
HEY!
Give me the ball
Give it to me
NO PASSES HERE, EITHER ...?
DON'T SEEM HAPPY TO BE BACKUPS!
WELL, LOOK AT THEM STEAMING.
OUR TWO FABULOUS ROOKIES
BAPTISM ...?
SHALL WE SHOW 'EM A LITTLE TEAM JAPAN...
LET'S DO IT.

IF YOUR TEAM WON'T PASS TO YOU,
WHY WON'T THEY PASS TO US?!
SHIIIT.
GOTTA GET THE REBOUNDS!
THE STEALS!!
NOW THE BALL'S MINE!!
HUH?

HUFF
HUFF
IT'S STARTING MEMBERS VS. SUBS WHO CARES WHO WINS?
WHAT ARE THEY SO WORKED UP ABOUT?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT'S WITH THOSE GUYS ...?
A
B
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HEY..
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
12
I..
HUFF
I COME FROM AN INDIVIDUAL SPORTS BACK-GROUND...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
YOU FRUS-TRATED, MATE?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

I NEED TO BE GOOD ENOUGH TO KEEP EVERYONE ELSE BENEATH ME...!!
SHIT
Egotist.

I decided to act together with Togawa Kiyoharu.



I DON'T KNOW MUCH
ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE TIGERS YET.

BUT I'LL DO ANY-THING I HAVE TO
SO THAT THE PEOPLE WHO CREATED AND PASSED ON THE TIGERS...
NSW

CAN BE PROUD OF THEIR CREATION.
G'DAY!!

YEP.
ON THE MOVE AGAIN.
THE TIGERS ARE...
KIYO-CHAN,
LET'S REPORT TO YAMA.
G

YAMA...

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

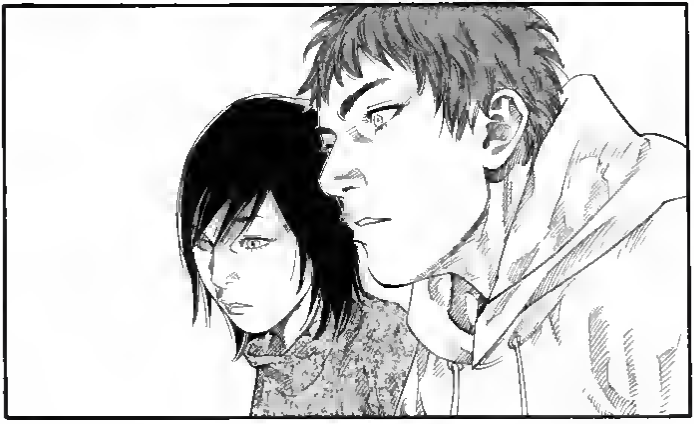
G

NAGANO ...?
.....

I TOLD YOU ABOUT HIM BEFORE.
WE LOST TO HIM IN A GAME OF STREET BALL.
THE AUSTRALIAN GUY.
HE JOINED THE TIGERS !!
HE'S GOT A LOT OF ENERGY AND MOMENTUM

WHEEZE
WHEEZE
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY...?
HUFF
HUFF
.....!!
COUGH, COUGH, HACK!
YAMA...
YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE FEELING GOOD TODAY, YAMA-CHAN...
I'M SORRY. WE'LL LEAVE.
I'LL BE FEELING LIKE SHIT UNTIL THE DAY I DIE.
I'LL BE LIKE THIS FOREVER.
HUFF
WHAT DO YOU...
NO, EVEN WORSE
HUFF
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, YAMA-CHAN
TODAY?
JUST TODAY?
I'VE BEEN LIKE THIS.

HAVE YOU HAD SEX YET?
YAMA ...

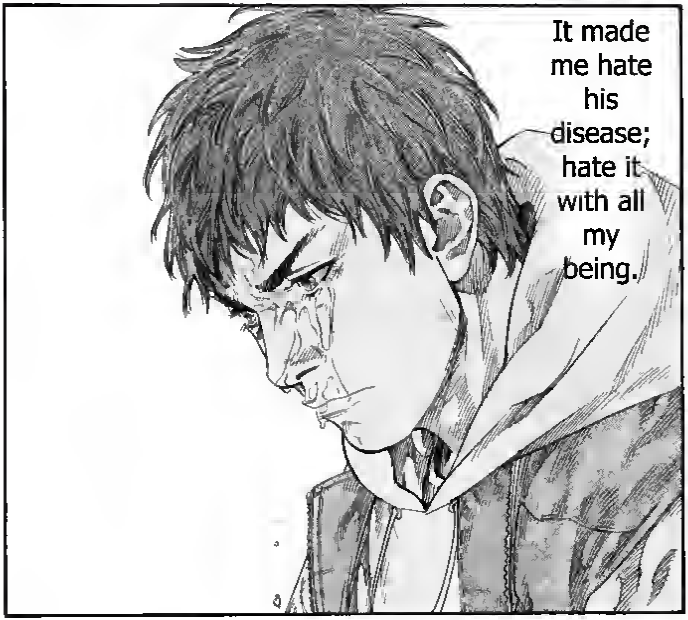


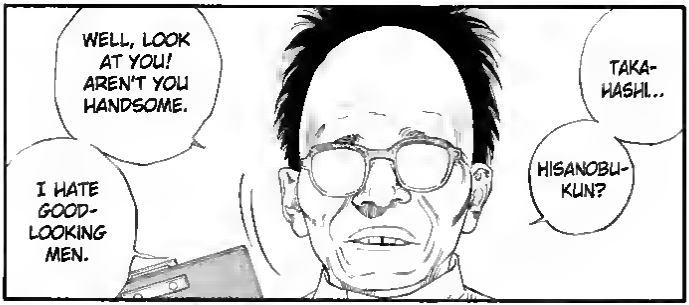
I GUESS...
HUFF
HUFF
I GUESS I'M PRETTY MUCH GUARANTEED TO DIE WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT SEX IS LIKE.
HUFF
I... I WANNA TRY IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE,
I WANNA HAVE SEX!
BUT I WANT TO HAVE SEX!
SEX!
YAMA!

I CAN'T EVEN RAISE MY ARMS.
HUFF
HUFF
THIS BODY, IT'S BARELY MINE ANYMORE.
I CAN'T HOLD A BAS-KETBALL.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
HUFF
HUFF
NAGANO MITSURU ?
HUFF
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
I BOUGHT A BALL.
.....!!
HE HEH.
THIS BUMPY TEXTURE ...
IN MY CASE, MY BODY'S JUST GOING TO WITHER AWAY,
BUT I'VE DIS-COVERED THE FEELING OF THE BALL JUST MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.

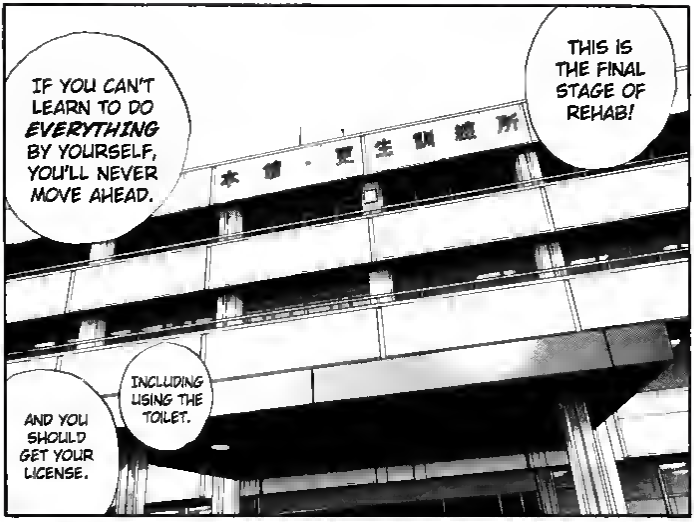
HUFF
HUFF
IT JUST MAKES ME SAD.
HUFF
TIGERS THIS, B-BALL THAT.
HUFF
KIYOHARU THIS, AZUMI THAT.
HUFF
HUFF
THE JAPA-NESE TEAM REPRESENT-ATIVE
WANT WITH A GUY LIKE ME?
LOOK AT THAT
I RIDE AN ELEC-TRIC NOW.
HUFF
I CAN'T TAKE A SINGLE STEP BY MY OWN POWER ANYMORE
AND WHAT DOES

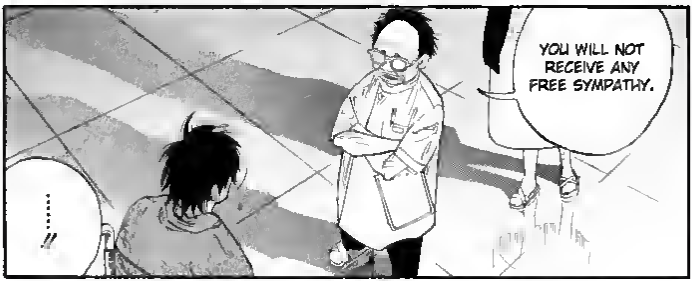
Why Yama?
Why...?
such a strong man to this,
When I saw how it drove

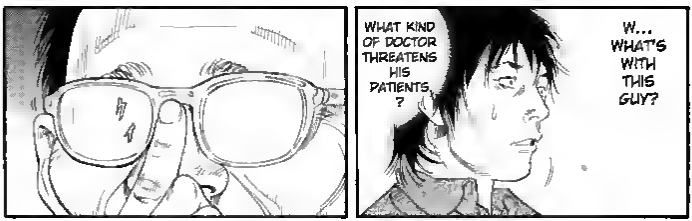

It made me hate his disease; hate it with all my being.


WELL, LOOK AT YOU! AREN'T YOU HANDSOME.
I HATE GOOD-LOOKING MEN.
TAKA-HASHI..
HISANOBU-KUN?

HUH?

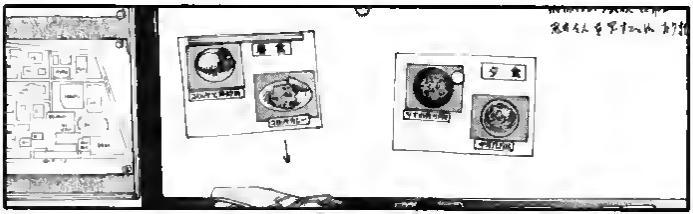

IF YOU CAN'T LEARN TO DO EVERYTHING BY YOURSELF, YOU'LL NEVER MOVE AHEAD.
THIS IS THE FINAL STAGE OF REHAB!
INCLUDING USING THE TOILET.
AND YOU SHOULD GET YOUR LICENSE.

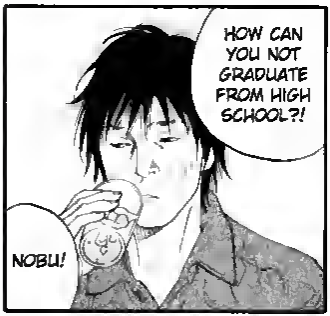

YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY FREE SYMPATHY.
……!!


WHAT KIND OF DOCTOR THREATENS HIS PATIENTS, ?
W... WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?

JUST DO YOUR BEST AND IT'LL BE FINE, TAKAHASHI-KUN
NOW DON'T BE FOOLED, HE'S ACTUALLY A VERY NICE MAN UNDERNEATH.
IF SHE WAS YOUR KIND OF GIRL, I MUST BE RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY, HMM?
DID SHE TELL YOU THAT?!
HEEHEE! OH, I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU FROM MY SISTER.♡
UH..
YOU'RE HER SISTER ?!
WHAH ?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...
The final stage
of rehabilitation...
Rehabilitation Center for the Physically Handicapped

29th.

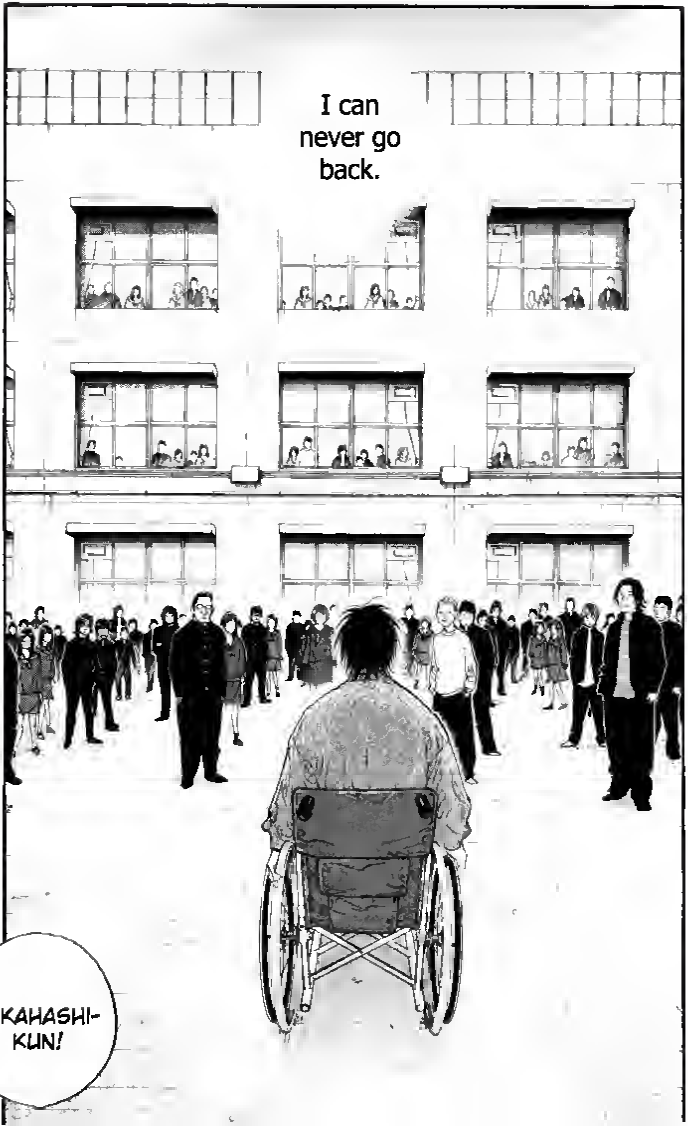


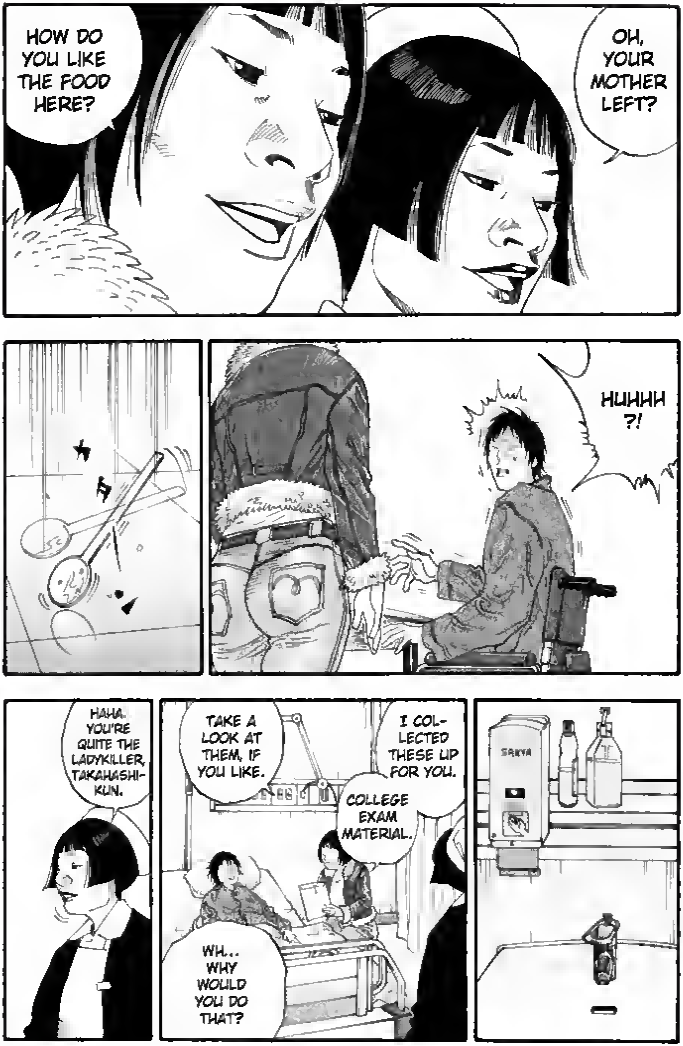

HOW CAN YOU NOT GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL?!
NOBU!

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
YOU CAN'T HELP REPEATING A YEAR! YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL!
JUST GO RIGHT BACK.
KEEP UP THE REHAB SO YOU CAN GET BACK INTO SCHOOL.
I'M TAKING OFF NOW.
AREN'T YOU?!
YOU'RE GOING BACK TO NISHI HIGH!
I ain't going back.
I'LL BE BACK IN TWO DAYS.

I can't go back.
I can't do it.
She can't even think of if she was in my position.
She doesn't know shit.

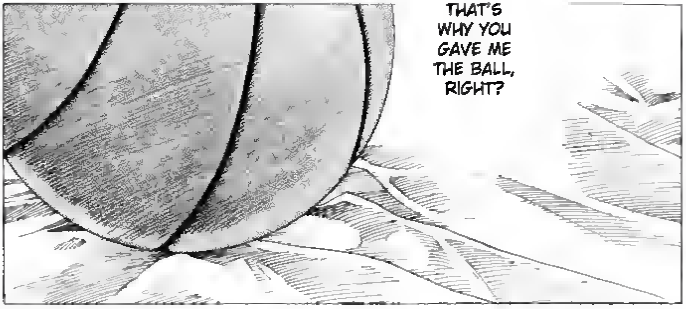

I can never go back.
TAKAHASHI-KUN!

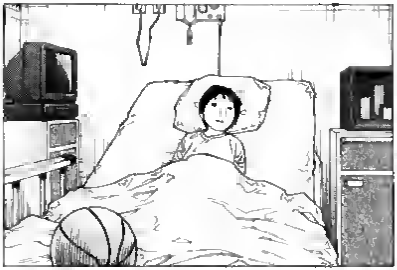

HOW DO YOU LIKE THE FOOD HERE?
OH, YOUR MOTHER LEFT?
HUHHH ?!
HAHA. YOU'RE QUITE THE LADYKILLER, TAKAHASHI-KUN.
TAKE A LOOK AT THEM, IF YOU LIKE.
I COL-LECTED THESE UP FOR YOU.
COLLEGE EXAM MATERIAL.
WH... WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
SAKYA

HAHAHA, WAS IT HARD PICKING OUT NICE CLOTHES TO WEAR TODAY, KAORU?
...HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
OH, STOP THAT! THESE ARE MY NORMAL CLOTHES!
EEEE EEEK!
CAN'T LET YOU GOOO!
I JUST CAN'T LET YOU GO!
トゥン
ケン
SAYS WHO?!
WHAT, YOU THINK SO? IT LOOKS PERFECTLY NATURAL
AND LOOK AT HOW THICK YOUR MAKEUP IS, SHIGERU!
MORE TEENAGERS IN YOUR POSITION, WHO NEVER WENT BACK TO HIGH SCHOOL.
BUT ONE OF THEM WENT ON TO GRADUATE COLLEGE.
I WAS THINKING THAT PARTICULAR CASE MIGHT COME IN HANDY.
WE'VE HAD PATIENTS IN THE PAST LIKE YOU.

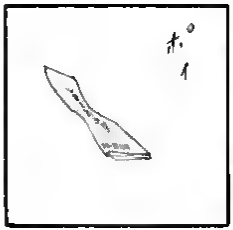
EVEN IF YOU QUIT HIGH SCHOOL AND NEVER GO BACK,
IF YOU TAKE THIS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION TEST AND PASS,
IT GIVES YOU THE QUALIFICATIONS TO TAKE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS.
.....
YOU CAN READ THIS FOR MORE INFO.
AND THIS IS FOR YOU, TOO!
HUH?

THANKS FOR THE BALL.
IT'S A GOOD THING BASKETBALL IS MY FAVORITE SPORT AFTER BASEBALL.
.....
OH... THAT KID.
KANTA ?
From Kanta
BUT HE SAID I CAN PLAY BASKETBALL.
...
P.S.
DR. SAWAMURA SAID I CAN'T PLAY BASEBALL ANYMORE.


THAT'S WHY YOU GAVE ME THE BALL, RIGHT?



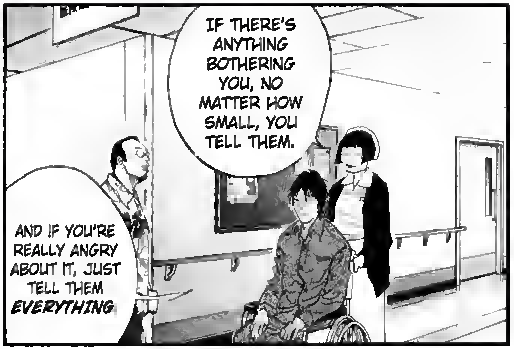
THANK YOU.

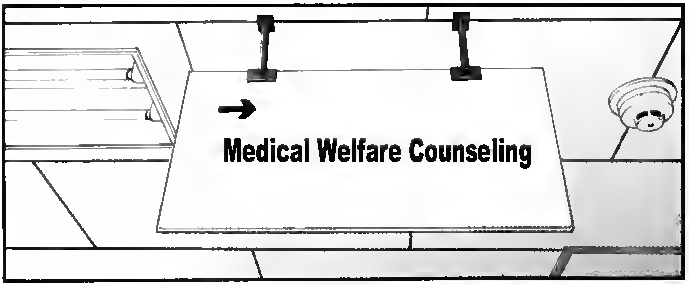


I ONLY LEFT IT THERE SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THE ASSHOLE IT REMINDED ME OF.
THAT STUPID BALL?
PAH ...

HMPH...
GO HOME
KANTA-KUN POURED HIS HEART AND SOUL INTO THIS LETTER!!
HEY !!
KEEP IT!!
COUNSELING?
YES.
YOU CAN TELL THEM ANYTHING.

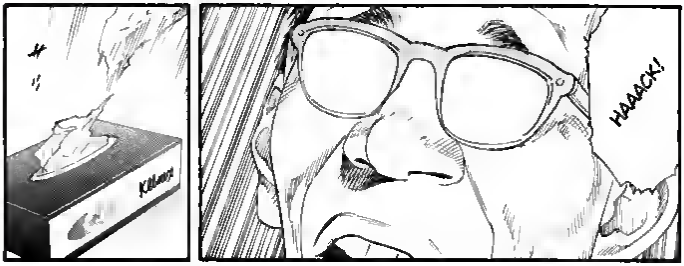
.....

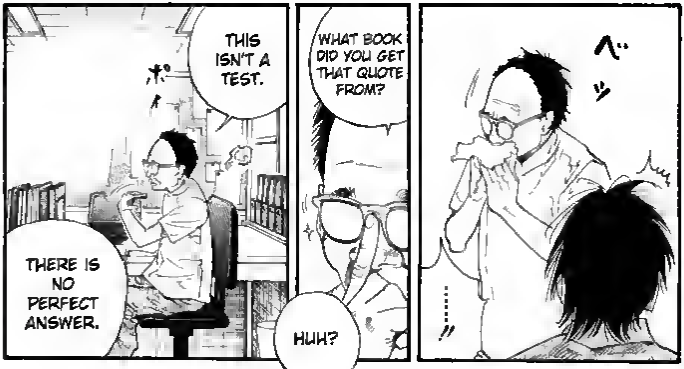

IF THERE'S ANYTHING BOTHERING YOU, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, YOU TELL THEM.
AND IF YOU'RE REALLY ANGRY ABOUT IT, JUST TELL THEM EVERYTHING.


Medical Welfare Counseling

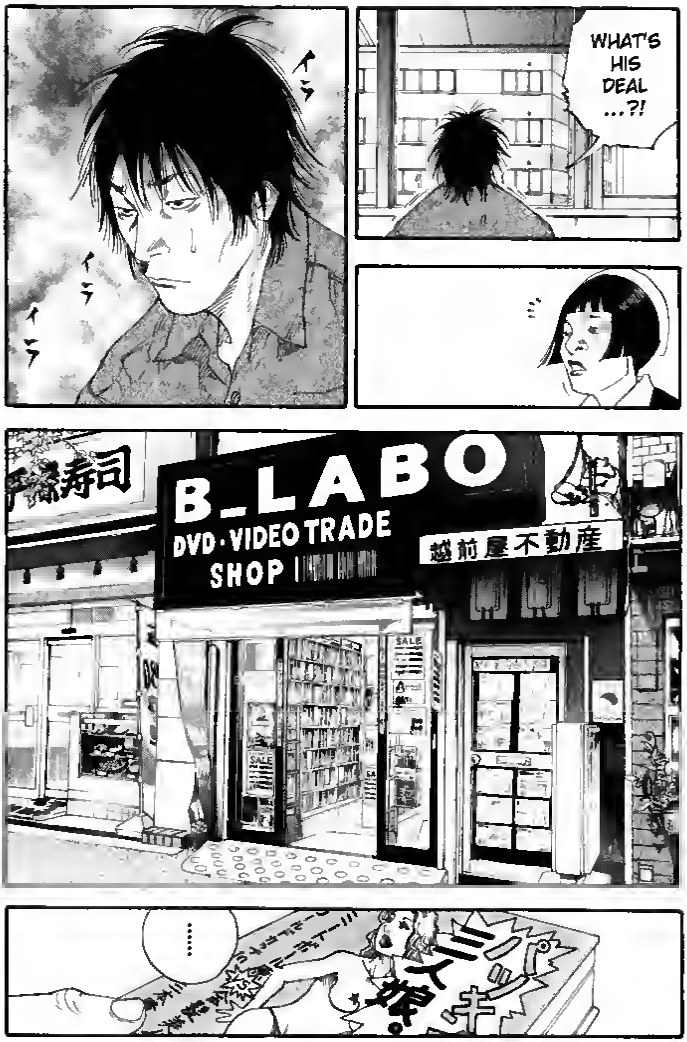
THEN FIND WHAT I CAN DO WITH IT.
I'D LIKE TO FIND SOME WAY TO BE PRODUCTIVE TO SOCIETY WHILE I'M HERE.
FIRST, ACCEPT MY HANDICAP,

I THINK IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT NOT TO LOOK AT WHAT I CAN'T DO,
BUT TO FOCUS ON THE THINGS THAT I CAN.


KLEENEX
HAAACK!


THIS ISN'T A TEST.
THERE IS NO PERFECT ANSWER.
WHAT BOOK DID YOU GET THAT QUOTE FROM?
HUH?

Medical Welfare Counseling
I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T LIKE GOOD-LOOKING MEN.
SO QUIT TRYING TO IMPRESS ME.
!?
WE'LL TALK TOMORROW.
WHAT... THAT'S IT?


イラ
イラ
イラ
WHAT'S HIS DEAL ...?!
寿司
B_LABO
DVD・VIDEO TRADE SHOP
越前屋不動産
SALE
SALE
……
ミッション

HUH ?
THANKS FOR COMING.
FINALLY GOT MY LICENSE!!
CHECK IT!
OH, COOL.
NO SHOP-LIFTING.
FUCK YOU TOO.
WHAT... THAT'S IT?!
THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY TO ME, AFTER IT TOOK NINE GRUELING MONTHS TO GET THIS THING?!
SHUT UP... IT'S JUST A LICENSE
WHAT ?!

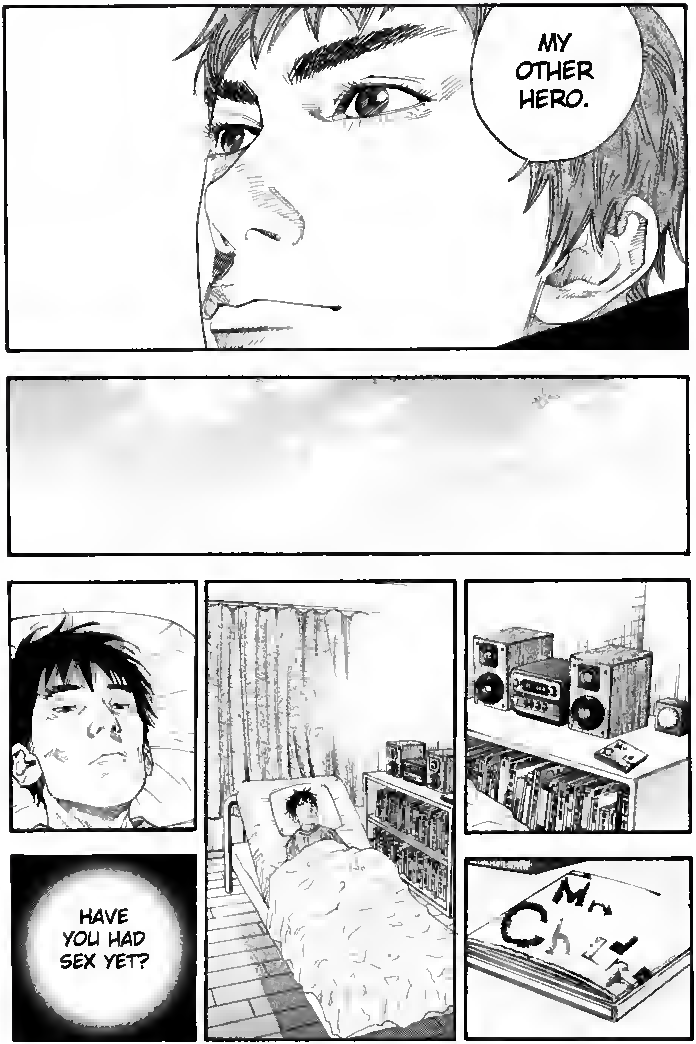
SAY VINCE, WHAT'S THE FURTHEST YOU'VE DRIVEN, HUH?!
WHAT'S YOUR MAX MILEAGE?!
OH, BUZZ OFF I'M BUSY.
I HAVEN'T LEFT THE CITY
GOOD JOB.
WENT TO NAGANO!
I WIN!
TOOK THE CHUO!
HIGHWAY DRIVIN'!
-LA
.VIDEO TRADI
SHOP
SEEYA
HELLO?
YEAH! I'M GETTIN' OFF NOW.
WAS THAT AZUMI-CHAN?
HUH?

HWUH ?!
W... WHAT'S HE DOING HERE...?!
HA HA HA!
SO YOU TWO WERE BET-BALL PART-NERS!
SORRY MATE, I DIDN'T RECOG-NIZE YOU FOR A MOMENT! I WAS USED TO THE AFRO HAIR!

...SO WHY ARE YOU COMING, TOO?
WE'RE GOING TO PRACTICE
MM...
AND THE ARCHRIVAL WHO STOLE OUR 10,000 YEN IS NOW A TEAM-MATE.
HE'S EVEN SECURED TODAY'S PRACTICE SPACE FOR YOU.
WHAT A PAL.
I'M AMAZED HE RESERVED THE TIME
I GOT FRIENDS IN GOOD PLACES.
IT'S A LITTLE FAR, THOUGH.
I WANNA MOVE AROUND, TOO.
YOU DON'T MIND IF I DRIBBLE A BIT IN THE CORNER?
NOT AT ALL, MATE.
I KNOW THAT FEELING.
THUMBS UP!

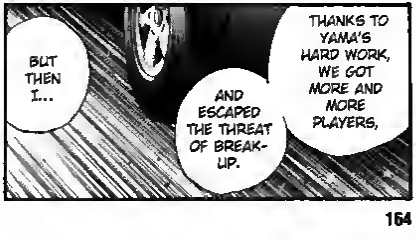
NOTE: HANSHIN TIGERS PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL TEAM.

HUH. DIDN'T THINK YOU'D EVER HAVE ONE OF THOSE.
BUT HE LEFT SOON AFTER I MET HIM.
HE WAS MY HERO, WHEN I WAS 15.
AS SOON AS I JOINED THE TIGERS,
HE LEFT THE TEAM AND WENT TO AMERICA.
THAT MUST HAVE SUCKED
YOU CAN'T EVEN PLAY A GAME
THERE WERE LIKE 2-3 PEOPLE LEFT.
SO A LOT OF THEM LEFT WHEN HE QUIT.
ALL THE MEMBERS WERE HIS OLD PALS,
YAMAUCHI HITOSHI.
IT WAS YAMA WHO HELD IT ALL TOGETHER.
WHEN THE TEAM WAS FACED WITH BREAKING UP,

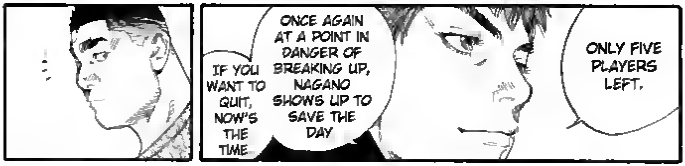

MY OTHER HERO.
HAVE YOU HAD SEX YET?
Mr. Children

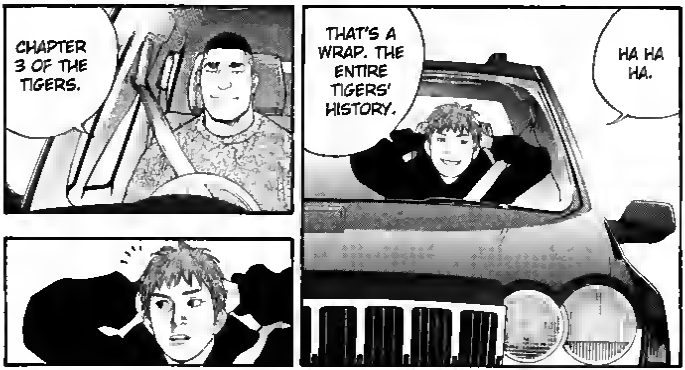
WHAT DOES THE JAPANESE TEAM REPRESENTATIVE WANT WITH A GUY LIKE ME?

RIGHT VINCE?
THIS GUY SLUGGED A MEMBER AND HAD TO QUIT!
THIS TIME YOU WERE IN TROUBLE!
SHUT UP.


BUT THEN I...
AND ESCAPED THE THREAT OF BREAK-UP.
THANKS TO YAMA'S HARD WORK, WE GOT MORE AND MORE PLAYERS,

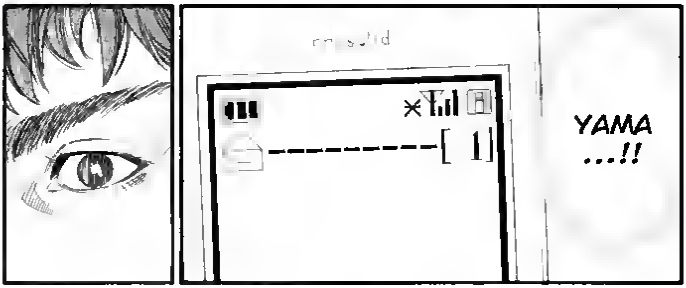
AFTER THAT, I ENDED UP REJOINING,
AND TAMURA-SAN AND SOME OF HIS FRIENDS QUIT.
YAMA COULDN'T PLAY ANYMORE, AND HE LEFT.


IF YOU WANT TO QUIT, NOW'S THE TIME
ONCE AGAIN AT A POINT IN DANGER OF BREAKING UP, NAGANO SHOWS UP TO SAVE THE DAY
ONLY FIVE PLAYERS LEFT.


CHAPTER 3 OF THE TIGERS.
THAT'S A WRAP. THE ENTIRE TIGERS' HISTORY.
HA HA HA.

YAMA-SAN'S CHAPTER.
TORA-SAN'S CHAPTER.
I'LL BE THERE TO BACK IT UP.
AND BEGINNING NOW, TOGAWA KIYOHARU'S CHAPTER.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT...
YOU GUYS ARE LUCKY.
AT LEAST YOU HAVE A TEAM...
CHAPTER THREE'LL BE THE THICKEST ONE YET, MATE.
.....

Yama
PLING-A-LING
PLING-A-LING


YAMA ...!!

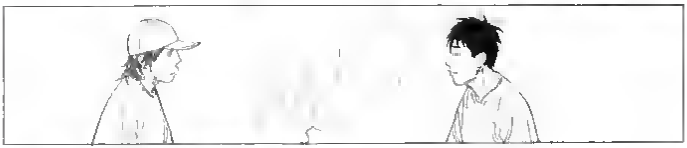
A part of me that isn't myself keeps taking over. I feel like I'm going to be the worst person ever by the time I die...
I'm scared. A part of me th isn't myself k taking over.

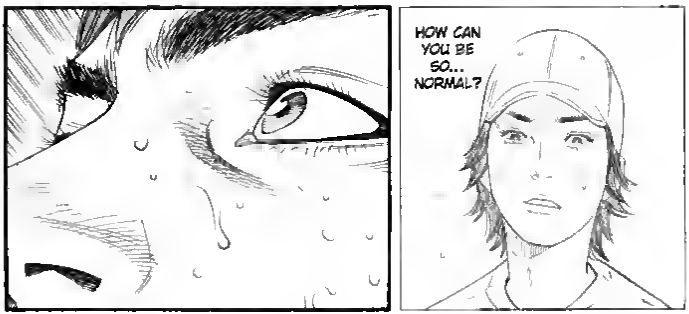
HERE WE ARE.
.....
WHERE'S TOGAWA?
PRACTICE IS ABOUT TO START!
THAT'S WEIRD. HE'S USUALLY ALWAYS YELLING AROUND THIS TIME.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
TOGA-WAAAA!

本文作成
Let me tell you this Yama !
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
You're my hero
You still are !

ORAAA!!

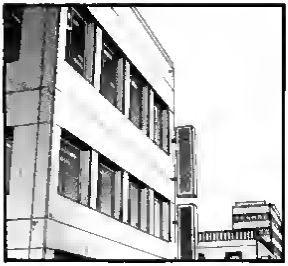
がたさん
がたさん
アサヒ 生ビ

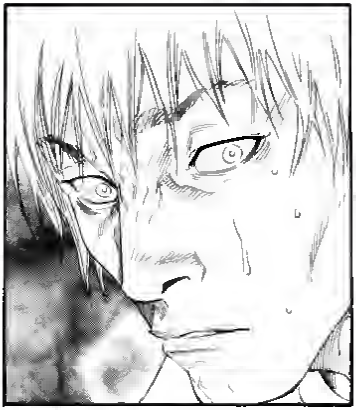



HOW CAN YOU BE SO... NORMAL?

YEAAAH!
UNNG.
GRR
RG
Physiotherapy
Room

THE FIRST STAGE OF OUR REHAB TREATMENT IS PUSH-UPS.
YOU NEED THE ARM STRENGTH TO BE ABLE TO LIFT YOUR OWN BODY UP.
ARE YOU READY TO DO THIS, TAKAHASHI-KUN?
!!
!
HEH
KID

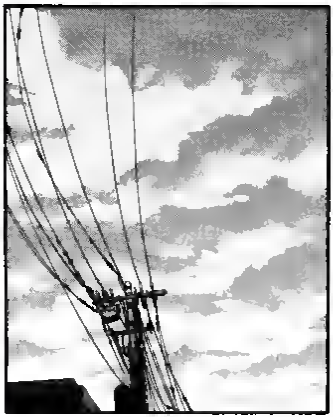




Cleaning

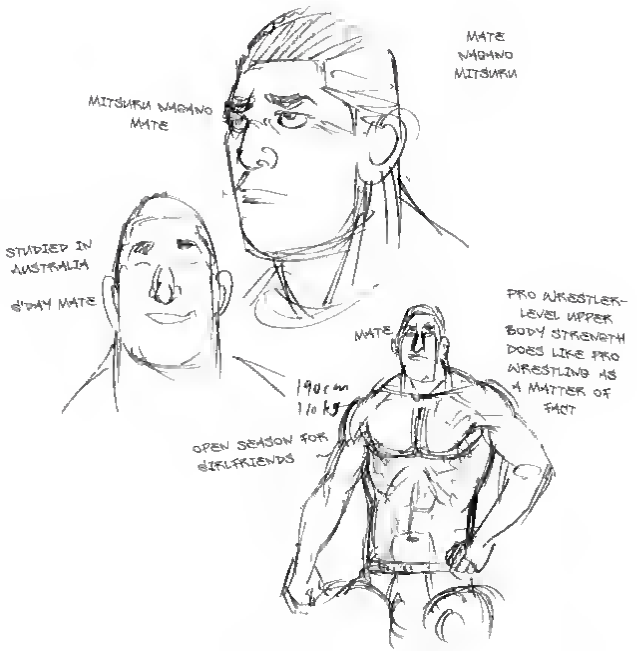
WHEW.
MY SON NEEDS ME TO WORK HARD.

OH, MY BACK...



IT'S SO STRANGE, HOW JUST THAT LITTLE THOUGHT GETS ME THROUGH THE DAY.

HEEHEE


MATE
NAGANO
MITSUKU
MITSUKU NAGANO
MATE
STUDIED IN
AUSTRALIA
G'DAY MATE
MATE
190cm
110 kg
PRO WRESTLER-
LEVEL UPPER
BODY STRENGTH
DOES LIKE PRO
WRESTLING AS
A MATTER OF
FACT
OPEN SEASON FOR
@IKLFRIENDS

30th.

COME ON THEN, TAKAHASHI-KUN! YOU'RE DOING FINE!!
IF I HAD THE SHIT YOU'VE GOT FOR BRAINS, LIFE WOULD BE EASY!
SHUT UP, YOU BULLSHIT ATHLETIC FRESH-FACED ENTHUSIASTIC PT!
YOU CAN DO THIS!
DON'T BE AFRAID!
SIGH.
...WHAT THE HELL DO I GET FOR BEING ABLE TO DO THIS?

C'MON, SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT!
WHAT THE HELL WILL THIS DO FOR ME?!
OOPS
!?

NOTHING
...
.....
WHAT'S WRONG, TAKAHASHI-KUN?
.....
YOU HAVEN'T MADE ANY PROGRESS FOR DAYS.
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM.
IT'S A MATTER OF FEELING.
THIS KID DOESN'T KNOW ME
A REAL MAN WOULDN'T LET THIS FAZE HIM!
THROW AWAY YOUR DEPEN-DENCE!!

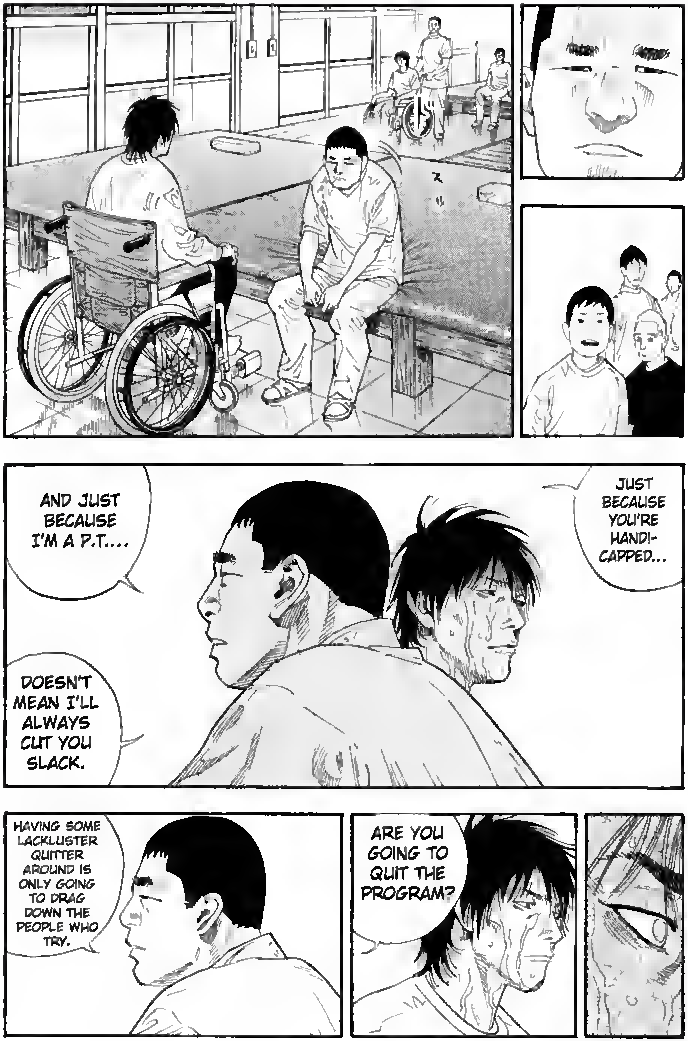
HOW IS BEING ABLE TO DO THIS GOING TO CHANGE ANYTHING?!
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I'M HANDICAPPED AND HAVE TO USE A WHEELCHAIR!!
AND BESIDES -!
PT
ヘ°
たん

?
I'M ALREADY DROPPING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL!
AND BESIDES ...
MY LIFE IS FUCKING OVER! NOTHING WILL CHANGE THAT!
SHIT!
WHAT, YOU CAN AFFORD TO BE REASONABLE WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE ALWAYS BELOW YOUR OWN RANK?
LET GO OF ME!
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL TAKE TODAY OFF, AND TRY AGAIN TOMORROW.

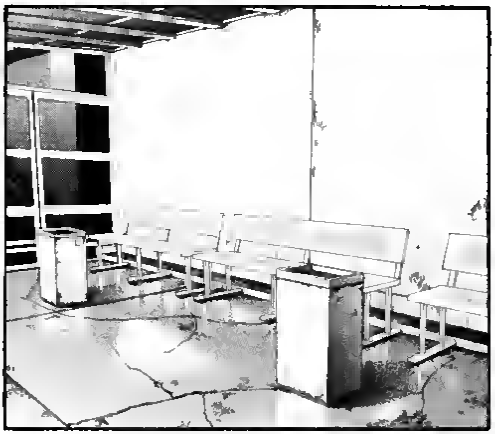
WE'RE DONE FOR TODAY.
GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM.
.....
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?

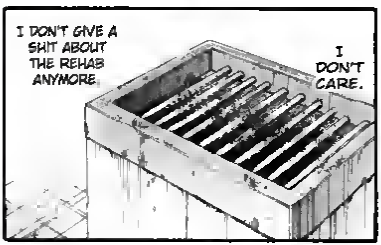
The next day
I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY.
WELL...
I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE ANXIOUS
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE FEELING UNSTABLE AS WELL. IT'S A ROAD THAT EVERYONE HAS TO TAKE.
HE SEEMS TO HAVE TURNED FACE.
FIGURES. THEY SAY HE WAS AN HONOR STUDENT AT SCHOOL.
OH?
WHAT THE FUCK WOULD YOU KNOW...?!
HUH?
C'MON, FIRST YOU HAVE TO PRACTICE GETTING FROM THE WHEELCHAIR TO THE MAT!
WHAT'S WRONG, WHY AREN'T YOU TRYING?
YOU WERE ABLE TO DO THIS YESTERDAY, WEREN'T YOU?

...NOT AGAIN.
.....
...I HAVE A KILLER HEADACHE.
.....
LET'S GO.
...NOT TODAY.


JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE HANDI-CAPPED...
AND JUST BECAUSE I'M A P.T....
DOESN'T MEAN I'LL ALWAYS CUT YOU SLACK.
ARE YOU GOING TO QUIT THE PROGRAM?
HAVING SOME LACKLUSTER QUITTER AROUND IS ONLY GOING TO DRAG DOWN THE PEOPLE WHO TRY.

PT
PT




I DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT THE REHAB ANYMORE.
I DON'T CARE.

...SO IT'S TRUE.
YOU *ARE* SLACKING OFF ON YOUR REHAB...
TH...
HISANOBU-KUN HAS UNFORTUNATELY BEEN AN EXTREMELY POOR PATIENT HERE.
I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOT MUCH REASON FOR US TO KEEP HIM AROUND.
OF COURSE, WE WILL DO EVERYTHING THAT WE CAN FOR HIM.
BUT YOU CAN'T REHABILITATE A PERSON WHO JUST DOESN'T CARE IN THE LEAST.
BUT IT IS.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THAT SIMPLY CAN'T BE TRUE!!

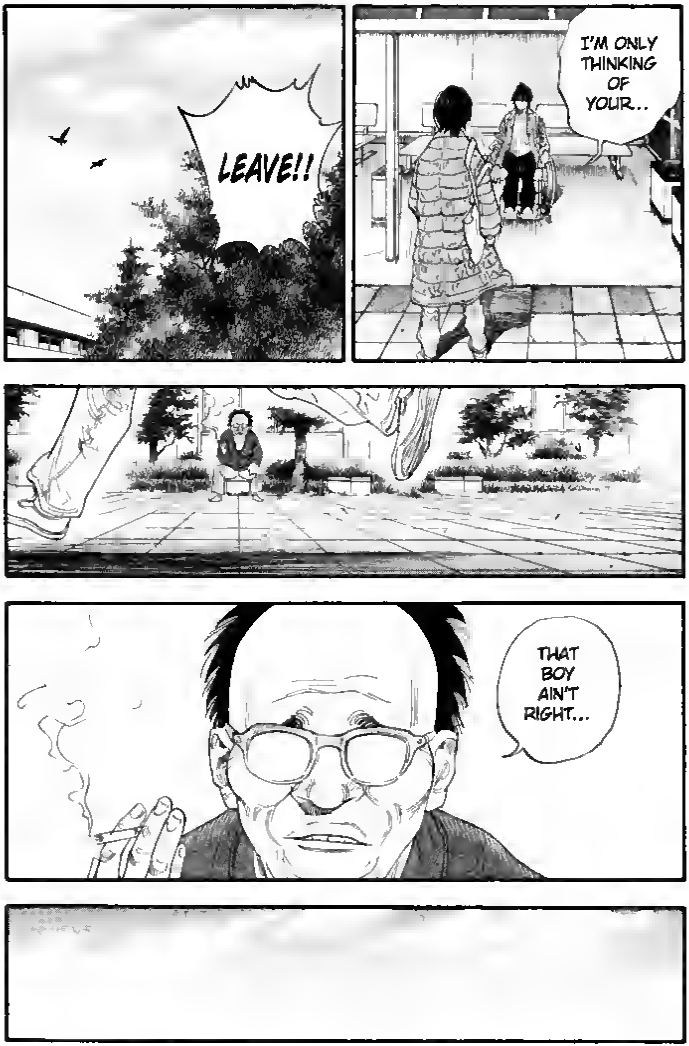
WE MIGHT HAVE TO THINK ABOUT DISCHARGING HIM FROM OUR HOSPITAL.
LOOK AT YOU SITTING HERE SMOKING!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, NOBU?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW ASHAMED I WAS?!
ピッ
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT. YOU SIMPLY *HAVE* TO GO THROUGH YOUR REHAB!
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT BACK TO SCHOOL IF YOU DON'T LEARN TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE-
WHAT'S THE DEAL, NOBU?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WOULD TRY TO GET BACK INTO SCHOOL!
THAT'S WHAT *YOU* SAID I WOULD DO.

GOD, DON'T YOU GET IT?!
NO, I DON'T GET IT!
I'M NOT GOING BACK.
OH YES YOU ARE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
.....
.....
I DON'T WANNA DO THIS!
I DON'T WANNA GO BACK TO NISHI HIGH!
YOU REMEMBER THAT NO-GOOD BOY WHO USED TO BE IN YOUR CLASS? THE ONE WHO PLAYED BASKETBALL?
WHAT DID YOU THINK ABOUT HIM, WHEN HE DROPPED OUT?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO BE A HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT?!

UNEMPLOYED ?
SHIFTING THROUGH A BUNCH OF HORRIBLE PART-TIME JOBS?!
AM I WRONG ?!
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S DOING NOW?!
HAH! WORTHLESS FUCK
GET LOST, YOU GODDAMN LOSER
HUNH ?
BWAA-CHOO!!
BWEH-K-CHOO!!
RRRR ...
DO YOU WANT TO TURN OUT LIKE HIM?!
HISANOBU !!

RRRRR RR---!
BWAAA-CHOO!!
HIGH KG!!
IT'S ALMOST A WONDER YOU TWO WENT TO THE SAME SCHOOL.
YOU'VE GOT SO MUCH MORE POTENTIAL IN YOUR LIFE,
YOU WILL IN THE FUTURE!
NO! YOU'RE NOT LIKE HIM! AND IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT NOW,
WHEN YOU GO BACK TO REPEAT YOUR SENIOR YEAR AT NISHI HIGH, YOU COULD BE TOP OF THE CLASS!
I MEAN, IT'S ALL STUFF YOU'VE ALREADY LEARNED ONCE BEFORE!
?
?
I KNOW!

!?
JUST DIE...
GO HOME, YOU FUCKING BITCH!!
LEAVE ME ALONE !!!
WHA ...
WH-WHAT ARE YOU...?
DON'T COME BACK !!


LEAVE!!
I'M ONLY THINKING OF YOUR...
THAT BOY AIN'T RIGHT...

GOT IT!
NUHAAA!
YEAAAH!
OH SHIT, DOUBLE CLUTCH!
NGAAH!
.....
AIR BALL !
NOT HAVING MY B-BALL KICKS IS THROWIN' OFF MY GROOVE!

AWWW...
ALL RIGHT, BREAK TIME'S OVER!
LET'S GET BACK TO IT!
OFF THE COURT.
STOP, STOP! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?!

うんざり
NOT AGAIN
WELL, WE'RE NOT GONNA WIN AT THIS RATE!
IF WE CAN'T BEAT THE DREAMS, WE'LL NEVER GET THERE.
YOU REMEMBER HOW WE TALKED ABOUT MAKING IT TO THE TOURNAMENT.
WE'RE ALMOST COMING UP ON THE PRELIMS FOR THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT.
ムカッ
WE'RE TRYING OUR BEST...
WHAT'S KEEPING YOU FROM USING YOUR VOICES?!
AND DON'T MAKE ME REMIND YOU THAT I CAN'T HEAR YOU OUT THERE!!
YOU GUYS WILL BE DREAMING!!
IF WE CAN'T EVEN DO THIS, WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO EVEN THINK ABOUT BEATING THE DREAMS!!
HUH?
HEY, TOGAWA!!
IF YOU HAD SPOKEN UP ON THAT LAST PLAY, WE COULD HAVE STOPPED THE OPPONENT FROM STEALING THE BALL!
HOW COME I DON'T SEE IT, THEN?!
SAME FOR WHEN THEY PUT ON A SCREEN!
AND THE SWITCH!!

TECHNI-CALLY, WE ARE OLDER THAN YOU!
WE DON'T LIKE BEING SPOKEN DOWN TO!!
AGE AIN'T IMPORTANT ON THE COURT, MATE.
HUH?
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU USE YOUR VOICE, MATE?
YOU GOTTA KNOW COUR-TESY WHEN YOU'RE AWAY FROM THE COURT, OF COURSE.

IT MAKES YOU HARDER, KEEPS YOUR SPIRIT UP.
IT HELPS YOU GET THROUGH THE TOUGH TIMES.
AND MOST OF ALL,
IT MAKES THE GAME FUN.
IT UNITES THE TEAM.

THANKS, MATE
HE'S NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL
CAN I GET AN AMEN!
YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT!
THE FIRST THING WE GOTTA DO IS BE THE TEAM WITH THE BEST YELL IN ALL OF JAPAN.
NAGANO-SAN IS BECOMING THE BACKBONE OF THE TEAM. HE'S BEING THE CORE, SO KIYO-CHAN IS FREE TO DO WHAT HE WANTS.
THEY'RE CHANG-ING...

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!
THE TIGERS ARE CHANGING !!
LET'S DO THIS!
YEAAH!
THERE ARE MORE PROBLEMS IN STORE THAN I'D ASSUMED, TOGAWA...
FIGHT, NISHI HIGH, FIGHT!
NISHI HIGH ?
HEY-HO-HEY!
ROAAR

Now Cleaning
Pardon the inconvenience
ABC Cleaning Service
.....
I'M SO TIRED...

Takahashi

TAP
TAP
OUT OF BATTERIES.

LOOKING BACK ON MY CLASS IN SCHOOL...
THE MAJORITY OF THEM WERE NORMAL B-C RANKS.
MATSUNAKA-KUN WAS ALWAYS EASILY HEAD OF THE ENTIRE YEAR.
OGASAWARA'S PARENTS OWNED A FAMOUS BUILDING COMPANY AND SHE SPOKE GREAT ENGLISH
AND THEN THERE WAS ME, THE TOP CLASS GUY IN EVERYTHING I DID.
WE WERE THE A-RANK
HEH HEH HEH...
TERRIBLE FASHION SENSE, CRUDE,
GRADES NEAR THE BOTTOM
BUT A PAIN IN THE ASS TO PUT UP WITH, EVEN IN THAT
ONLY GOOD AT BASKET BALL,
HEH HEH HEH ...
DROPOUT LOSER NOMIYA IS OFF THE CHARTS! E-RANK!

HANDICAPPED IN A WHEEL-CHAIR...
HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT ...
1" ½
OH! HEY !!
LOWER THAN E-RANK.

COLD IN TOKYO, TOO...

2006年秋、発売予定!!

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